

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE (PART 3)

STORY

Night riders raced out of the dark Missouri woods, breaking into the cabin of a slave and her infant son, stealing them both away. The baby was later found nearly dead, but his mother was never seen again. Raised by his former owners, the Carvers, George taught himself to read. He loved plants and became known as a plant doctor even as a child. At age 9, he left home to attend school for the first time, since the local school did not allow black students.

George Washington Carver put himself through high school and college. When he earned his degree in agriculture, he was called to teach at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

A gifted teacher, Carver was also a devoted researcher, experimenting with seed, soil, and feed grain. He taught local farmers how to rotate crops, to plant peanuts to enrich the soil, and discovered over three hundred uses for the peanut plant.

Throughout his life, his Christian faith was primary. "I have made it a rule to go out and sit . . . at four o'clock every morning and ask the good Lord what I am to do that day," he said. "Then I go ahead and do it."

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Read and discuss Carver's faith as seen in this prayer that he wrote: "May God ever bless, keep, guide, and continue to prosper you in your uplifting work for humanity, be it great or small. And may those whom He has redeemed learn to walk with Him not only daily or hourly but momentarily through the things He has created." *Carver recognized God as the giver of all meaningful accomplishments. He asked God to motivate and equip those for whom Jesus died in each aspect of their life, respecting all of His creation.*
2. Carver turned down offers for huge salaries by working for major industries because he wanted to stay at Tuskegee and help his people. How did he serve God in this? *Carver served others as his way of serving God. The word ministry means service.*
3. In what way are people like George Washington Carver gifts from our heavenly Father? *Scientists and others who help to advance knowledge are great gifts from God in that they help to improve the quality of life and to preserve and protect God's creation.*