

**Focus:** Holy Trinity

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth

CD: Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 1

Gospel: in lesson

3 Hearts

3 small water glasses/carafe

3 paper clips

Trinity Poster-Endless Triangle

Felt Board

Triangle cutout (& hearts from Gospel reading)

Fish cutouts and Dry-Erase Marker

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about the day the Holy Spirit came to the apostles and how it gave them the courage to tell others about Jesus. This week we are going to talk about the Holy Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children*, track: 29, from Bible Songs for Kids, Vol. 1

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love;

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.

Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love,

Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love,

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love;

Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love;

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.

### Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*God loved the world, he sent his only Son.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *God loves us so much and he wants us to live with him always. Jesus leads us to God the Father. Jesus came to teach us about God's love so we can live forever in God's kingdom.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: None, pp. N/A,

*God*

*[Point heavenward]*

*so loved the world,*

*[Cross hands over heart]*

*that he sent his only son, Jesus*

*[Move hands forward, palms up, like handing a present to someone]*

*so that all who believed in him*

*[Tap forehead, then place hand over heart]*

*might have eternal life.*

*[Point heavenward]*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

*Today we celebrate our belief in the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is our belief that there is only one God, who is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When we pray the Sign of the Cross we show that we believe in the Holy Trinity. To begin, invite the children to pray the Sign of the Cross.*

- *What does praying the Sign of the Cross show us about God?*
- *Who are the three Persons in one God?*

*In the Gospel story:*

- *Who does God love?*
- *What happens if we believe in Jesus?*
- *What is eternal life?—life with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit every day forever and ever.*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*Other things come in threes. When we add 'tri' to a word it usually means three. A triangle is a shape that has three sides and three corners. If one side or corner is removed, the triangle isn't whole anymore. A tricycle is a bike with 3 wheels, if one of the wheels is missing, the bike won't work. The Holy Trinity is God in 3 persons, Father, Son and Hs. All three are important.*

*God the Father loves us so much that he wanted to be with us and sent Jesus, his Son so that we would know how to live happily with God every day. It is very important to know that God is very generous. He gives us great love, more than we can imagine. Last week we talked about who Jesus sent to be with us even though he had gone to heaven, does anyone remember who? --The Holy Spirit.*

**Gospel Activity**Activity 1:**Thanking the Trinity of Love**

Materials:

3 small water glasses, carafe, 3 paper clips, 3 hearts and love triangle, Felt board, fish, marker.  
(Prep before class-fill small glasses with water)

*Say: God is a community of three divine persons—not three gods, but one loving God who is a community of three loving persons.*

Show the children examples of three things that make up one thing. Pour 3 small glasses of water into one carafe. Link 3 paper clips together and show how they make one chain

Attach 3 hearts to the felt board. Arrange them as a shamrock; add the triangle for the stem. Tell them that love is what joins the three persons of the Holy Trinity, just like a stem of a shamrock/clover.

Help the children think of examples of God's love that they have personally seen or have heard about from scripture. As each one is named, write it on one of the little fish (explain that fish are symbols for followers of Jesus) attach it to the felt board and offer a prayer of thanks to the Trinity.

For example: if a child names "parents", write "parents" on one of the hearts and say: "For parents. We give thanks to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." Encourage the children to pray with you.

Please erase the fish at the end of the exercise for the next group.

Activity 2:**God is love**

Show the picture of the endless triangle. Show how each person in the trinity is written on the page next to a point of the triangle. Show how there is not an easy way to decide where the any of the lines begin and end.

*Each person of the Trinity is fully God, but each person has their own responsibilities. This is a very important mystery in our faith. It is a mystery because it is hard to describe in our own words. We can't understand it all while we are here on earth.*

*The three points of the triangle are all connected; if they weren't connected they would be just 3 separate lines. God the Father created the whole world and all the animals, plants and*

*people. Jesus came to live with us so that everyone would know how to live like Father wanted them to. The Holy Spirit is our guide and remains with us even though Jesus has gone back to the Father.*

*There is a relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that can never be broken. It is love. Just like the lines hold the points together, love holds the Trinity together. The Trinity does everything to help us share in eternal life. (Stick the word LOVE in the center of the triangle.) God loves us so much he sent Jesus to save us from making bad choices and the Spirit is with us always the help us make good choices. We can't understand exactly how they are 3 in 1 but we can learn from them about love.*

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, the Father, who created heaven and earth?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, the Son, who came to show us the way to heaven?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person in the Holy Trinity, who helps us to pray and to follow the way of Jesus?*

### **Sending Forth**

*Say: When we go back into church take a quiet moment to thank God the Father for all that he has created, the animals, the plants, US! Thank God the Son, Jesus, for teaching us how to love one another. Thank the Holy Spirit for guiding us to make the right choices.*

### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "To God Be the Glory" track 31 from Bible Songs for Kids, Vol.1 while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.