

Focus: Go and tell others about Jesus and The Holy Trinity

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: 25 Sunday School Songs
Book for Gospel: The Bible for Children
Picture: Trinity Triangle

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about the special Feast of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came to the church, just as Jesus said he would. The Holy Spirit helps us to be good followers of Jesus. This week we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity. We believe that there is one God in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We call this belief the mystery of the Holy Trinity. We just talked about the Holy Spirit. Jesus is part of the Trinity, he is God the Son. Then there is God our Father in heaven, creator of heaven and earth. This week we are going to hear a story about the work that Jesus wants us to do.

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.

Make the Sign of the Cross slowly with the children. God is three persons, joined in a perfect loving union of one. Jesus taught us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us pray a special prayer names the Glory Be.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Standin' In the Need of Prayer, track: 8, from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol. 2

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.

It's me, it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but
it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my sister, not my brother. but
it's me, O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer.

Repeat both verses 2 more times.
Last time repeat last line: "Standing
in the need of prayer."

Memory Verse

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

All power on heaven and earth has been given to me.

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

Say: *Jesus came from heaven and also lived here in this world. He laughed, cried, experienced joy and sadness, just like we do. But because he was from heaven he is also 'divine' which means without sin. So he told this to his disciples so that they would know he was not only human like them, he had come from heaven and would reign over the Kingdom of God everyday.*

Gospel Story

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

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: The Bible for Children, pp. pg. 303, *Go Into All the World--Start at the beginning of the 3rd paragraph. "One day, Jesus told the eleven..."*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *Where does Jesus tell the disciples to go and wait for him?*
- *How does Jesus explain that he can send them on a mission?*
- *What does Jesus tell his disciples to do?*
- *How does Jesus help his disciples to not be afraid?*
- *Do you think Jesus only meant for those with him to go and teach others?*
- *Do you think he wants us to do this too?*
- *How can we teach others about Jesus?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's gospel the disciples meet Jesus on a mountaintop. When they see him some are excited and some are filled with questions about what they should do. Jesus tells his friends to go out and spread God's love to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (the Holy Trinity).

At the time Jesus walked the earth, there was no such thing as radio or television or the internet, the way that the disciples had to spread the story of Jesus was to go a talk to others. Jesus knew he couldn't get to everyone, but his helpers could, they would spread the Good News of Jesus and the love of the Holy Trinity to all the world. Jesus taught them everything they needed to know. Just as he teaches us to love others, be kind, use kind words and to not hurt others.

Jesus sends the disciples on a mission to carry his preaching of the love of God to the ends of the world. Jesus tells them that they are not alone. Jesus will always be with them.

We have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we are given the mission to teach everyone everywhere about Jesus by the ways we care and share and the ways we are patient and loving.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

GO GAME: Variation on Simon Says.

Leader will have children stand in a line against the wall and begin to tell children that JESUS says to GO and _____, or GO and _____, etc. If JESUS says to do it, then the children can mimic your action and take a small step forward, (ex: GO and PRAY (prayer hands), GO and read your Bible (open palms like a book), GO and give someone a hug (hug your arms). If JESUS doesn't say to GO, then the children will stand still until the next command.

Sample Actions:

Hug your neighbor

Pray

March in place

Say peace be with you to your neighbor

Say Alleluia

Clap your hands

Jump one time

Shake hands with your neighbor

Raise your hands up high

Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

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 no easy way to decide where any of the lines begin and end. Each person 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. (Put 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, who want us to live with him in heaven?*
Do you believe in Jesus, who has promised to be with us always?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and gives us power to share God's love like Jesus did?

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 "*The Light Medley*" track 10 from [25 Sunday School Songs](#) 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.