

Focus: Holy Trinity

Materials:

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

CD: Cedarment Kids Sunday School Songs
Gospel: in lesson
3 Hearts
3 small water glasses/carafe
3 paper clips

Trinity Poster
Felt Board
Triangle cutout (& hearts from Gospel reading)
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 tel 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

Down in My Heart-Can end after 2nd chorus, track: 13, from Cedarment Kids Sunday School Songs

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.

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
down in my heart to stay.

Chorus:

And I’m so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart
And I’m so happy, so very happy
I have the love of Jesus in my heart

I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in
my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart
I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in
my heart, down in my heart to stay

Chorus

I have the peace of Christ’s understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down
in my heart.

I have the peace of Christ’s understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Chorus

I’ve got the wonderful love of my precious
redeemer, way down in the depths of my
heart,(where?), Down in the depths of my
heart, (where?), Down in the depths of my
heart

I’ve got the wonderful love of my precious
redeemer, Way down in the depths of my
heart, (where?), Down in my heart to stay.

Chorus

I have the love of Jesus in my heart (2x)

Memory Verse

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

All love and truth comes from God.

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

Say: *God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They form a community of love so perfect that they are one. God is only good. Everything we hear from the Bible is God's truth. God's Word tells us the truth. That we are to love one another, take care of those who have less than us and to forgive others when they say we are sorry.*

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,

– You will need 3 hearts to lead this adaptation of the Gospel reading.

Jesus taught his friends many things about love and truth. He told them that all he taught came from his heavenly Father.

[Hold up one paper heart]

God the Father sent his Son, who is Jesus to us.

[Hold up the second heart, fanned out next to the first one like 2 leaves of a 3-leaf clover.]

Jesus wanted his friends to keep learning about love and truth even after he went up to heaven. He wanted us to keep learning about love and truth too.

He told his friends that the Holy Spirit would keep teaching all of us.

[Hold up the third heart, and fan it in with the other 2, completing the 3-leaf clover shape.]

All that we know about love and truth comes from God the Father, God the Son, who is Jesus and God the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit keeps teaching us and helping us become the person God wants us to be.

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:

- *What does Jesus tell his disciples about the Holy Spirit?*
- *Why is the Holy Spirit described as the Spirit of Truth?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit help us be good followers of Jesus?*

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 is like a loving family. The character of God reminds us of the importance of love and relationship. We're made in God's image. God made us to live like a loving family, caring for one another, working together and reaching out to others to bring good into the world. We're only happy when we are loving one another, because that's the way we are made.

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

Materials:

3 small water glasses, carafe, 3 paper clips, Trinity Poster, Easel pad, hearts, 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. Show the Trinity Triangle and tell them that love is what joins the three persons of the Holy Trinity, just like a stem of a shamrock/clover.

Attach 3 hearts to the felt board. Arrange them as a shamrock; add the triangle for the stem. 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 hearts 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 hearts 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. (Write 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 "*Whisper a Prayer*" track 6 from Cedarmont Kids 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.