

LESSON 1

God Is Three in One

The Trinity has been described by some theologians as the Divine Riddle: “One makes three and three makes one.” This essential aspect of the nature of God as three in one is important for children to know and understand. The word *trinity* is a shortened version of *tri-unity*. Although the Trinity isn’t found in the Bible, the truth of God as three in one is scattered throughout the pages of Scripture. In this lesson, you’ll help kids discover that God really is three in one and that they can have a friendship with the one God who is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Scripture Foundation

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit work together.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

Moses reminds the people that the Lord is our God and the Lord is one.

MATTHEW 28:19

Just before ascending into heaven, Jesus instructs his disciples to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

JOHN 14:9

Jesus tells us that anyone who has seen him has seen God.

JOHN 14:16-17

Jesus promises that God will send the Helper, “the Spirit of truth.”

THIS LESSON AT A GLANCE

SEQUENCE	EXPERIENCES	SUPPLIES
SET THE FOUNDATION (about 10 minutes)	<i>Perfect Agreement</i> Kids will form trios and move through an obstacle course to experience working as three in one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various items for making a simple obstacle course
PRESENT THE BIBLE FOUNDATION (about 25 minutes)	<i>Different but the Same</i> Kids will peel hard-boiled eggs to connect the idea of God as three in one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • 1 hard-boiled egg per child • 1 plate per child • napkins • wet wipes • crayons or stickers
BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION (about 10 minutes)	<i>Trinity Shield</i> Kids will each personalize a Trinity shield drawing and then share their responses with a friend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of “Trinity Shield” hand-out for each child (p. 15) • crayons or markers • <i>optional</i>: CD of soft worship music, CD player

Before the Lesson

SET THE FOUNDATION: *Perfect Agreement*— Establish a simple obstacle course in your meeting area or a park if possible. Use chairs, tables, and other common items. If at a park, have kids go around a tree, under a swing, over the merry-go-round twice, and so on to return to the starting place. Choose safe and easy obstacles.

Perfect Agreement

(about 10 minutes)

SAY:

A long time ago, Christians would repeat a statement each week when they gathered for worship. They said something like this: “So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet there aren’t three Gods but one God.” Let’s play a game to learn more about God as three in one.

Form trios. Have kids each choose one of these roles in their trios: Eyes (this person is the only one who can have open eyes), Feet (this person leads the way by taking steps while the other two follow), Mouth (this person hears directions from the Eyes and whispers to the Feet). Have trios move through the obstacle course. Allow a few minutes for the game.

ASK:

- What was it like moving through the obstacle course with your trio?
- What did your trio have to do to get back to the starting point?

SAY:

Just as there were three of you teamed up in this game, there are three persons in God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud 2 Corinthians 13:14. John 14:16-17 and John 16:13.

SAY:

In these passages, we get a glimpse of what God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit do.

ASK:

- What do you learn about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’s roles in these Scriptures?
- Which roles in your trio match the roles of the different parts of the Trinity?

- Just as in our game, why is it important that each part of the Trinity does the right part?

SAY:

It's hard to understand how God can be three persons and still be one God. But that's what the Bible tells us about God. Let's look more closely at what it means for God to be three in one.

PRESENT THE BIBLE FOUNDATION

Different but the Same

(about 25 minutes)

SAY:

Before we look at what the Bible says about God as three in one, let's take a look at how something can be different but the same.

Pass out a hard-boiled egg and a plate to each child. Have crayons or stickers available to decorate eggs.

SAY:

Let's decorate these eggs with symbols or pictures of what you think represents God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit from these Scriptures.

Have kids read Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 14:9, and John 14:16-17. Have kids decorate their eggs based on what they've read in these Scriptures. When it appears that most kids have finished decorating their eggs, ask willing kids to share their decorations with the entire group.

SAY:

Great job decorating your eggs. Now I want to show you something.

Take your own egg, with the shell still on, and cut it into halves with a serrated knife. Hold up the halves so kids can see them.



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ASK:

- How are the three parts different or the same?
- Why is each part dependent on the other three?

SAY:

Like the egg, God is three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The shell can represent Jesus, whose body was fragile and broken. The yolk can represent God, who is set apart as holy from humans and is also the center. Finally, the egg white connects the shell with the yolk, which can represent the Holy Spirit.

Invite kids to have the egg as a snack, gently cracking the shell and enjoying the contents of the egg. Pass out napkins and wet wipes.

SAY:

Now that we've seen how the Trinity, like the egg, has three parts that form one whole, let's build on that.

BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION

Trinity Shield

(about 10 minutes)

Pass out a copy of the "Trinity Shield" handout to each child, along with markers or crayons. Play soft worship music in the background while kids draw, if you wish.

SAY:

Let's respond to God as three in one by coloring this Trinity shield.

SAY:

Take a few minutes to draw a picture or write words that describe what you think about God's unique role in your life as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. For God as Father you might draw a picture or write something

about how he created the world or your body. For the Son or Jesus you might draw a picture of Jesus on the cross or rising from the empty tomb. For the Holy Spirit you might draw a dove or write something about how God comforts you when you're sad.

After giving kids 10 minutes to personalize their shields, ask them to pair up with a friend. Ask each of them to spend a few minutes sharing their pictures or words and talking about how they feel about God in each of the unique parts of the Trinity. After each child has had a turn to talk, ask kids to sit and hold their pictures while they pray silently and thank God for creating, saving, and comforting them.

For your closing prayer, have kids each think of one word of thanks about each of the three-in-one aspects of God.

PRAY:

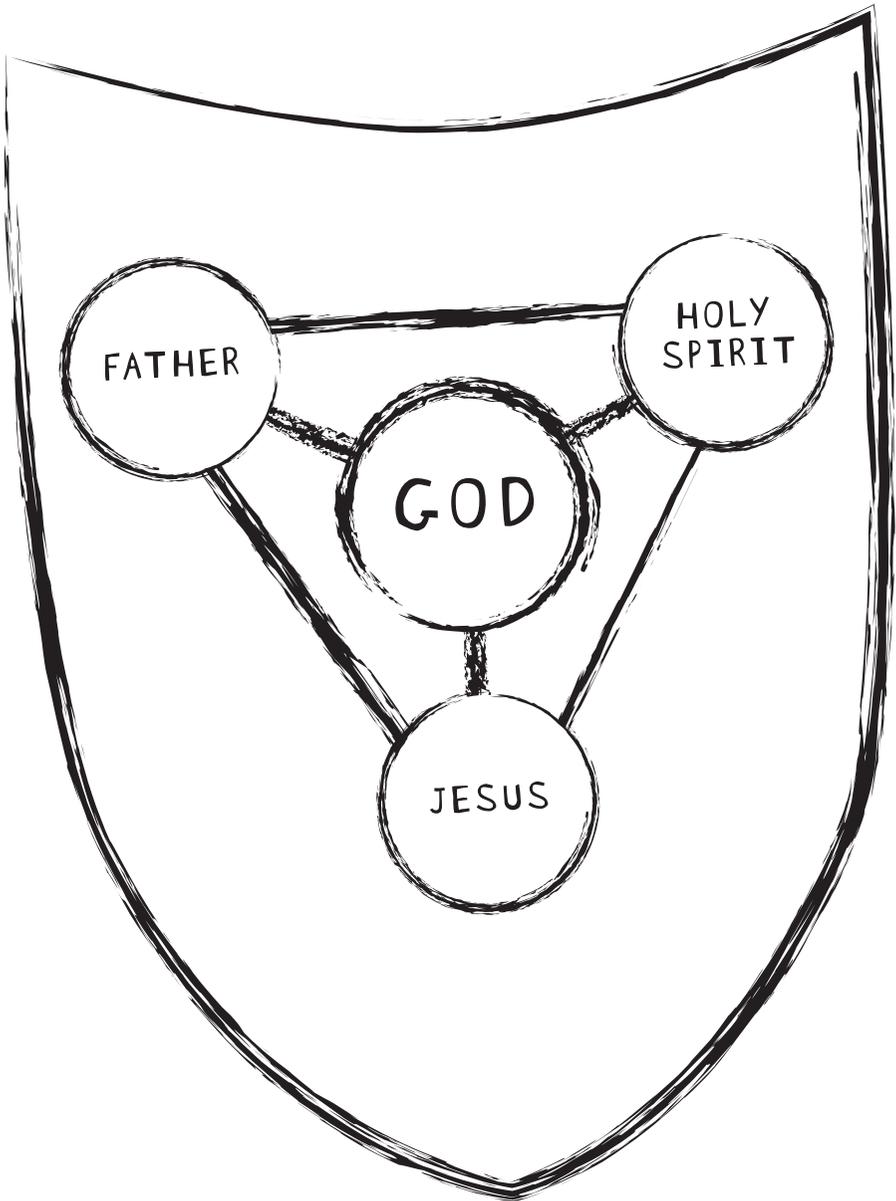
God the Father, thanks for creating me. When I think about how you created me and the beautiful world we live in, the one word I want to tell you is...[let kids say a word].

God the Son, Jesus, thanks for coming to earth. When I think about how you lived your life, died on the cross, and then rose from the grave, the one word I want to say to you is...[let kids say a word].

God the Holy Spirit, thanks for living inside me. When I think about how you help me be more like you, I want to tell you...[let kids say a word].

Close your time together with the benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:14. Point out to kids that if they listen, they'll hear in this one verse each specific name of our three-in-one God: **"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."**

Trinity Shield



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