

Trinity Sunday – year B

Preparation

Read the Gospel [John 3:1-17](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/trinityb.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115911_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/butterfly.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/trinkart.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwv.htm#p01>

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/newtestament/newcreation.htm>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/218JesusNicodemus.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles
- Three different colours of construction paper

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Lay out the three pieces of construction paper. Ask the children how they are the same and wait for their responses. Now ask the children how they are different and wait for their responses. Explain that in the story today they will hear how God can be experienced in different ways and still be the same God.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

This story is told from the perspective of Nicodemus, so you may want a towel or shawl to put over your head to get into the role.

Well, hello there. How wonderful it is to see you all. I am so happy to be here with you today. I have something so special that I need to tell you. It is about an amazing visit that I had with Jesus. He told me something that just surprised me so much.

What? What? *(Look around as if someone off stage is talking to you.)*

Oh yes, that's right I need to tell

the children my name. So, children, I am Nicodemus. I was one of the leaders of the religious community in Jerusalem when Jesus was around.

Now, children, I have to tell you something else about myself. Something that I am not very proud of. I am not a brave man. I was really scared that if the other religious leaders heard that I had met with Jesus that they would do something nasty to me. So, children I asked Jesus to meet with me at night. This is what we had to talk about.

"Jesus, we all know that you are teacher who comes from God. For the things that you do show us that."

After that Jesus said the most surprising thing. He said, "Here is a truth for you. No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born from above."

Now that set me back on my heels. I wasn't sure what to think or say after that. I asked Jesus, "How can anyone be born after becoming a grown up? I just don't understand what you are talking about."

Jesus answered me in this way, "You who were born of the world need to be born of water and of the Spirit if you want to see the kingdom of God. Don't be surprised that I said to you, that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You don't know where it comes from or where it will be going. It is the same way with the Spirit and everyone that is born of the Spirit."

You need to know children, I was still very confused and asked Jesus, "How can this be?"

It was at this point that Jesus told me something that I have never forgotten and has become so much part of my story and I hope that it will become part of your story as well.

Jesus said to me, "God loves this world so much. So much that God sent me, the only Son, to come into the world and to save it. So that everyone who believes in me will be saved and live with God forever. God did not send me into the world to tell the world how wrong it is but to point the way to the Kingdom of God."

Children this changed the way I think about God. I realized that God was bigger than I thought possible. I realized that God is love so large. I realized that God through Jesus wants to save us all. I realized that God the Holy Spirit blows through all of our lives if we just listen for it.

Thank you children for listening to my story. I am so glad that I was able to be here with you today.

Take the shawl or towel off your head and ask the children if they have any questions about today's story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Trinity Wind Chime

As a way to capture the wind image for the Spirit and to show visibly how the three persons of God work together make these chimes with the children. This response will take a little extra preparation but will be worth it in the end.

Materials needed

- the three images (heart, Jesus face and wind) at end of lesson
- tops of frozen juice containers (3 for each child)
or some other round metallic piece with no sharp edges
- old teaspoons (2 or 3 per child)
- strong string
- hammer and sharp nail
- a small piece of dowel about 30 cm (12 in) long
- scissors
- glue
- markers

Instructions

Using the hammer and sharp nail bang a hole into each round metal piece and into the non-bowl part of the spoon. Make copies of the images at the end of the lesson so that each child has one set. Cut 5 or 6 pieces of string into various lengths. Cut one longer piece of string about 60 cm (24 in) in length. Give each the images have them cut them out in circles that will fit onto the circle shapes. Invite them to colour them with the markers. As they are colouring talk with the children about the different ways that we see God. God as loving creator (heart image), God as our friend and teacher (Jesus) and God as Spirit that moves like the wind (wind image). When they are done colouring help them to glue the pictures onto the round metal pieces. Assist the children in tying the string onto these and onto a couple of spoons and then tie them all onto the dowel. Tie the longer string onto either end so that the children have a way to hang the wind chime up once they get it home. Remind the children that as the wind blows through it they will be able to remember how Jesus talked about the Spirit being like the wind moving through our lives.

Project Idea 2: Trinity Picture

Materials needed

- light coloured construction paper
- crayons – including black ones
- Trinity image at end of lesson
- scissors

Instructions

Make a copy of the Trinity image at the end of the lesson. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Strip the paper off the outside of many different coloured crayons. Show the children how to colour on the paper using the side of the crayon. Have them cover the whole piece of paper with different blocks or stripes of colour. When they are done that, strip the paper off the side of the black crayons. Give each child a black crayon and have them colour with the black one so that all of the other colours are covered up. Once they have covered up all their colours with the black crayon, show them the Trinity image. With the edge of the scissors show them

how to scrape the black crayon off and make the Trinity image on the paper. As they are scraping off the black crayon note with the children how the different colours are showing up, just like we see different aspects of God at different times and it is still the same God. Encourage the children to share their pictures and the story of Nicodemus with their families.

Project Idea 3: Trinity Blow Art

This response will give the children a freer way to share the experience of the Trinity with their families than the previous two and will work well with younger children in particular.

Materials needed

- art paper used for finger painting, straws
- three different colours (preferably bright ones) of tempera paint
- bowls to put the paint in
- spoons
- newspaper
- paint shirts (especially for younger children)
- water to clean up with afterward
- black marker

Instructions

Print across the top of the art paper in black marker “**The wind blows where it will**” for each child. Lay out the newspaper over the work area. Give each child a prepared piece of art paper. Show them how to drop a small bit of each colour of paint on to their paper and then blow at it with their straws. If they need more paint just add it to the paper for them. When they are done comment on how some of the colours mixed to make something new and how some of the colours stayed separate from each other. This is how we sometimes experience God – sometimes as all the persons of God mixed together and sometimes as just one of the persons of God. Encourage the children to share their creations with their families when they get them home.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Heart Shape



Jesus' Face



Wind



Trinity Image

