

## Trinity Sunday – year C

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### Preparation

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Read [Proverbs 8: 14, 22-31](#) and [John 16: 12-15](#). 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/yearc/trinityc.htm>

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

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

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

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/map-and-guide.html>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/Trinity-c/F-Trinity-c.html>

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452\\_115790\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115790_ENG_HTM.htm):

scroll down to find this week's lesson

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Construction paper
- Scissors

Cut three circles out of the construction paper, each one a little smaller than the other. Print the word “**Love**” on each circle – print it larger on each circle from smallest to largest circle. Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.**

**Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.**

**Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Lay out the smallest circle and have one of the children read the word in the middle of the circle. Then lay the next largest circle on top and have a child read the word in the middle of the circle. Then lay the largest circle on top and have a child read the word in the middle of the circle. Now ask the word if the smaller circles have disappeared under the larger – hopefully they will tell you that they haven't. Ask the children if the love on the circles has disappeared under the the largest circle – hopefully they will tell you that it hasn't. Explain that in today's story they will hear about the different ways that we experience God in our lives.

## Story Time

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### Instructions

- Have the children sit together in a circle and join them there.

*This story will be told from the perspective of one Jesus' friends – it might help to bring a hat to wear or to change your voice for the story.*

Hi children. It is really good to be with you here in your circle today. I am really glad to be visiting with you today. I lived a long, long, long time ago when Jesus was here with us on earth. I was one of the people who followed him around and learned lots about God.

Jesus had many things to tell us about God. How much God loves us. How much God loves the world. How much God wants us to be the best people that we can be. We use lots of different words to describe God. Can any of you tell me some that we use? *Here are some possible answers – creator, father, lord, master – be affirming of all the ones that the children can come up with.*

We learned as we were with Jesus that he was more than just a human being. He was able to do so many amazing things. He healed sick people. He fed lots of people when we didn't think there was enough food. He told the best stories. I just loved listening to the stories that Jesus had to tell. Can you tell me some of the stories that Jesus told?

*Here are some possible answers the son who was forgiven by his father, lost sheep and any others they may remember.*

As we spent time with Jesus, we came to understand that he was the promised one of God. That Jesus is God's son! Imagine that! We had never thought that God could have a son or that God would come and be with us on earth in this way.

Jesus also told us many things about the Holy Spirit. He told us that God would come to us as the Holy Spirit and give us all gifts to be able to share the Good News with the world. He told us that the Holy Spirit would show us the way of truth. Jesus reminded us that the Holy Spirit was also called the Wisdom of God and that she had been with God forever. Can you tell me some of things that the Holy Spirit has done?

*Here are some possible answers – the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit blessed Jesus at his baptism – be affirming of their answers.*

So children, after Jesus had gone to heaven to be with God, we remembered all things he had told us. We realized that we could talk about God in three different ways. We could talk about God as creator of us all, God as Jesus who came to save us, and about God the Holy Spirit who comes to teach us all.

Thank you children for listening and sharing with me today.

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Trinity Picture

#### Materials needed

- Trinity image at end of the lesson
- vegetable oil
- cotton balls
- white paper
- construction paper
- pencil crayons or crayons
- stapler with staples

#### Instructions

Copy the trinity image at the end of the lesson onto the white paper. Give each child a copy of the picture. Have the children trace out the image with a finger and see if they can find a beginning or an end for the circle or for the trinity knot. Explain that one of things that Christians know about the God the Trinity is that God has no beginning or no end and we use images like this one to describe that relationship. Have the children colour in the white spaces in the image with the pencil crayons or crayons. When they are finished have them dip a cotton ball into a bit of vegetable oil and spread it all over the page. Set this aside and give them each a piece of construction paper and have them fold it in half. Have them mark a half a rectangle on one side leaving an 8–10 cm (3–4 in) margin on the outside. Cut this rectangle out and unfold the paper and they should have a frame for their picture. Have the children lay their trinity picture inside the frame and then using the stapler staple the frame to the picture. Encourage the children to find a window to put up their pictures in at home so that they can see the light shining through it and it will remind them of God as Creator, Son, and Spirit

### Project Idea 2: Trinity Bracelet

#### Materials needed

- 3 different colours of ribbon or yarn
- beads with large holes
- strong tape
- scissors

#### Instructions

Cut three pieces of ribbon or yarn (each a different colour) into 60-cm (24-in) lengths for each child. Give each child the three ribbons or yarn pieces and have them lay them side by side on the table and then tape down one end with the tape (this will help with the braiding process). If the children do not know how to braid yet then show them how to do it with the ribbon/yarn. After they have braided a small piece have them add a bead to one of the pieces of ribbon/yarn and then continue with the braiding. When they have braided about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the ribbon/yarn then have them add a different coloured bead to another piece of ribbon/yarn and continue with the braiding. When they are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  through their braiding have them add a third bead to the third piece of ribbon/yarn. As they get finished help them to tie a knot in each end of the braiding. Then help them to tie their bracelets on their wrists. Tell the children that each bead and each piece of ribbon/yarn help to make the whole bracelet just like all three persons of God need each other – the Creator, the Son and the Spirit – to form the Trinity. Their bracelets will remind them that God the Trinity is with them at all times.

## Project Idea 3: Trinity Blow Painting

### Materials needed

- three different colours of tempera paint (but not brown or black)
- water
- straws
- legal size white paper
- newspaper
- bowls
- spoons
- markers

### Instructions

Lay out the newspaper over the work and put the different colours of tempera paint each into a bowl. Add some water to the paint just to make it slightly thinner than normal. Give each child a piece of legal size white paper. Have them print across the top with a marker “**God the Trinity, fill our lives**”. With a spoon have the children put a spoonful of each colour in different places on the paper. Give each child a straw and invite them to blow the paint across their paper. Encourage them to blow the different colours into each other. As they are blowing suggest that each colour of paint is like one part of the Trinity – God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit – and that as the colours come together they remind us of how God comes together in our lives. When they are finished invite them to share their paintings with their families and tell them about today’s story.

## Closing

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

**Thank you God for loving care;**  
**Thank you Jesus for loving choices;**  
**Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.**

## Trinity Image

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