

SECTION

1.5

God Is Three in One



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Painting a Picture of God

What You'll Need: 3 small plastic cups of red, blue and yellow paint, one large piece of white paper, a paintbrush (optional: an easel)

PREP: Ahead of time, pour paint into small plastic cups. Gather white paper and a paintbrush. If you prefer, you can put the paper on an easel to make it easier for kids to see.

STEP 1: Have kids sit so that they can see the white paper easily. Talk about how each cup of paint is a primary color. Discuss what a primary color is and how you can't mix other colors to get it, but you can mix it with other primary colors and create new colors. Tell them that primary colors are very important because they are the basic building blocks for all the different colors you see.

STEP 2: Explain that the first color you will put down will represent God the Father. He is going to be the color red because He loves us so much. Paint a big glob of red on the paper.

Ask the following question:

- What words would you use to describe God the Father?

STEP 3: Explain that the next color you will put down on the paper will represent Jesus, the Son of God. He is going to be the color blue because He brought us peace with God. Paint a big glob of blue paint right next to the red paint.

Ask the following question:

- What words would you use to describe Jesus the Son of God?

STEP 4: Explain that the next color you will put down on the paper will represent God the Holy Spirit. He is going to be the color yellow because He gives us the power and ability to become the people God wants us to be. Paint a big glob of blue paint right next to the other two globs of paint.

Ask the following question:

- What words would you use to describe the Holy Spirit?

STEP 5: Encourage kids to see that each color is different and we see each of them differently, but God is one God. Take the paintbrush and swirl the three colors together to create a swirl of color (with each color still being visible). Together the three persons of God are one God. This concept is called the Trinity. Each person of God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) is distinct just like the primary colors, and together they are one God, just like the swirl of color. Remind them that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are always with us and are always working together to help us grow more like Jesus.

STEP 6: Transition to the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and the kids to a better understanding of the Trinity.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Trinity Triangles

What You'll Need: Plain or colored popsicle sticks (3 per kid), markers, black marker, school glue or glue dots, a piece of yarn or string

PREP: Ahead of time, ask volunteers to write one name of God on each kid's set of three popsicle sticks ("Father" on one, "Son" on one, and "Holy Spirit" on one). Be sure to write it in black permanent marker so that kids can color the sticks if they are not already colored. Then set out one of each labeled popsicle stick in front of each child's place, along with three glue dots or a bottle of school glue to share.

STEP 1: Invite the kids to sit down and hand out a set of popsicle sticks. Ask them to look at the sticks and pick up the popsicle stick that says "Father."

Ask the following questions:

- What are some things that a good father does?
- What are some things that you have seen in the Bible that God does as our good Father?

Explain that one of the great parts of trusting Jesus as your Savior is that you are invited into God's family. God becomes your Father. Talk about how meaningful it has been to you to have God as your Father.

STEP 2: Ask kids to pick up the popsicle stick that says "Son."

Ask the following questions:

- What are some things that a good son does?
- What are some ways that you have seen in the Bible that Jesus was a good son?

STEP 3: Ask kids to pick up the popsicle stick that says "Holy Spirit."

Ask the following questions:

- What are kinds of things does the Holy Spirit do?
- What are some ways that you have seen in the Bible that show you what the Holy Spirit does?

Explain that becoming a child of God is a process. The Holy Spirit's job is to help you grow and change so that you look more and more like a child of God. Your job is to listen to His voice and obey Him. Explain that as you do this, you will begin to look more and more like Jesus.

STEP 4: Talk about how you have looked at each of the persons of God separately, but you never want to forget that each of these persons are one God. Each lives in complete unity with each other and they work together all the time. This understanding of God is called the Trinity. Give each child three glue dots and have them glue the popsicle sticks into the shape of a triangle.

Ask the following questions:

- How does being in complete unity with one another and being one make God different from any other god?
- How does knowing about the Trinity help you understand something new about who God is?

Encourage kids to tie yarn around the triangle so that they can hang the Trinity triangle in their rooms and remember that God is different than another other god and is worthy of our worship. Remind them that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are always with us and are always working together to help us grow more like Jesus.

STEP 5: Transition to the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and the kids to a better understanding of the Trinity.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Three Roles, One God

What You'll Need: Bibles, paper, tape, sticky notes

PREP: Before class, write each verse reference on a sticky note. Take three pieces of paper, and write God the Father on one, God the Son on another, and God the Holy Spirit on the last one. Tape them to different walls or flat surfaces in your space, so the kids can see them.

STEP 1: Divide the kids into groups, passing out a sticky note with a verse reference to each group.

STEP 2: Give groups five minutes to look up their verse(s) and determine if the verse describes God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit. Have kids race to stick the note with their reference under the correct heading before the time is up.

STEP 3: After five minutes, have kids share their answers.

Colossians 1:2 (God the Father)

Romans 8:26 (God the Holy Spirit)

Romans 5:6-8 (God the Son)

Galatians 5:22 (God the Holy Spirit)

Psalm 37:23 (God the Father)

John 20:31 (God the Son)

STEP 4: Share these key concepts, as you walk around the room and stand by the different signs.

- God exists as three persons in one, called the Trinity. The three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons are fully God, yet each has its own unique responsibilities in the lives of those who have a relationship with God.
- The first person in the Trinity is God is the Father of all creation and the Father of Jesus Christ.

When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God becomes our heavenly Father. As our Father, God guides our lives (Psalm 37:23), gives us grace and peace (Colossians 1:2), and offers forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9).

- God the Son is the second person in the Trinity. Jesus came to earth as a man and died on the cross and rose again. God offers us salvation from sin through Jesus Christ. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, God forgives all your sin. When He looks at you, He sees Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- The third part of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, plays a special part in our lives after we trust in Jesus as Savior. The Holy Spirit is always with us. He helps us when we are weak (Romans 8:26), He convicts us of sin (John 16:8), and He helps us understand God's Word. As we learn more about how God wants us to live, the Holy Spirit helps us become more like Christ (Galatians 5:22).

STEP 5: Continue the discussion by sharing anything else from the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Three Equals One

What You'll Need: Bibles, Three Equals One Handout, pencils

PREP: Print out enough handouts for the kids in your group.

STEP 1: Explain to kids that, even though the word Trinity is not in the Bible, there are many verses that talk about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There's something mysterious about how they work together, that God wants us to solve by putting together the clues found in Scripture.

STEP 2: Give each child a handout, and assign the following verses to kids to look up and read. Explain that these verses are like the clues that tell us more about God. Ask leaders to help kids look up the verses as needed. As they read these verses, write down their observations, just like a detective would when trying to solve a case.

The verses the kids will look up:

- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Matthew 3:16-17
- Matthew 28:19
- John 10:30
- 1 Peter 1:2

STEP 3: Have the kids take turns sharing what they discovered with the group.

STEP 4: Share the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements.

Notes:

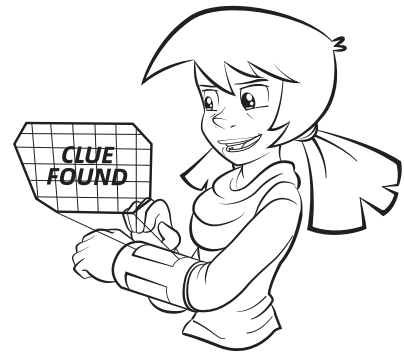


Three Equals One Handout

Check the box next to the Scripture reference that has been assigned to you!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 13:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:19 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 10:30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 1:2 | |

Write down what you discover about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and how they work together as the Trinity!



FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
THE TRINITY		