

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *The Trinity*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- The Trinity is a concept that has its origins in the Bible, although the word is never found in the Bible. In that regard it is similar to other aspects of the doctrine, such as the sacraments. The three sacraments are not specifically mentioned by the name that we refer to them today, but they have biblical origins.
- For more information about the triune God, see the full Catechism sections 3.1 and 3.2.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

I believe...

- God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Catechism Q&A questions 51, 61)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Lemonade mix
- Water
- Pitcher
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Bible: Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:6-8
- Catechism Q&A questions 34-37, 51-66
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 69 – God is...](#)
- Song
 - [This I believe](#)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

God is three in one. What does this really mean? This week we will be discussing the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." question was about the triune God and who He is. Talk with your student this week about the different Persons of God. Consider sharing with them how you have experienced God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

In front of the students, stir together lemonade mix and water in the pitcher. You can also have each student pour some water into the lemonade mix and stir it themselves.

Ask the students: Now that the lemonade mix and the water have been stirred together, can you separate them again? (The answer is no.)

Make sure the students understand that the lemonade is made up of two different parts (lemonade mix and water), and yet, they are also one (lemonade) and cannot be separated.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Tell the students: The hook activity we did is one way that we can begin to understand that God is three Persons in one. However, no matter what analogy we may use or activity we might do to understand how God is three Persons but also one God, we will never truly be able to grasp the mystery of the Trinity. We have to use our faith. There are really no words to describe this mystery – our analogies will always fall short, but they at least allow us to start thinking about the one God as three Persons, which is why we did that activity.

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)
- If you seem to be running short on time, you can stop the video at 7:12.

Student Question #1 Who is the triune God?

Tell the students: Before diving into the Persons of the Trinity, let's first reflect on who God is.

- Watch For Your Journey [Episode 69 – God is...](#)

Ask the students to take notes during this video. They should be listening for the different aspects of God and what they mean:

- God is perfect.
- God is love.
- God is Jesus Christ.
- God is triune.
- God is peace.

Discuss with the students the aspects of God mentioned in the video. If further clarification is needed on one or more of these aspects, you can also reference the Catechism Q&A questions 53-60.

Student Question #2 Who are the Persons of God?

Read Catechism Q&A question 66. Ask the students: Who are the three Persons of God?

Tell the students: The Catechism Q&A question 66 lists different points of emphasis for each Person of God. Based on these descriptions, what are names of God that are relevant to the Persons of God? (can be found in various Bible verses if help is needed)

- God, the Father – Father, Creator, Almighty, Alpha and Omega, Sustainer
- God, the Son – Savior, Redeemer, Friend of Sinners, Light of the World
- God, the Holy Spirit – Giver of Life, Spirit of Truth, Comforter, Guide, Helper

Student Question #3 Why is recognizing and praising the Trinity important to our faith?

Tell the students: Belief in the triune God is essential to our faith. We can understand this by looking at the early church creeds that came together between the second and fourth centuries. The two early creeds that are most important to our own New Apostolic Creed are the Apostolicum and the Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople. Let's read these together in the Catechism Q&A questions 34 and 35.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

- This I Believe:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>

Ask the students:

- What do these creeds tell you about the Trinity?
- How are these creeds similar to our creed (Articles of Faith) and what they say about the Trinity?

While the word “trinity” does not appear in the Bible, the 3 Persons of the Trinity are referenced in Scripture

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages that reference the Trinity:
 - The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20
 - In Apostle Paul’s benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - In Apostle John’s letter: 1 John 5:6-8

Tell the students: Now let’s listen to “This I Believe” by Hillsong.

Tell the students: Beyond this song, many other Christian songs and hymns make reference to the Trinity and encourage us to praise the triune God.

Ask the students: After looking at the early creeds and our creed, and then listening to this song, why do you think recognizing and praising the Trinity, and each Person of the Trinity, is important to our faith?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Consider adding that for God, the past, present, and future are equally before Him.

Wrap up the lesson with who the Triune God is.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end.

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

I believe...

- God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Catechism Q&A questions 51, 61)

Point to Ponder....

- The mystery of the divine Trinity comes to expression in various ways in the Bible. However, the Bible doesn't mention the term "Trinity." Read Genesis 1:26 for an example of how the Trinity is revealed in Scripture.

A Call to Action....

- Next time you hear the benediction blessing at the end of the divine service, from 2 Corinthians 13:14, share with someone after service what it means to you to have this blessing pronounced over you and the congregation.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *The Trinity*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Who is the triune God?	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Q&A question 51, 61)
References: Bible: Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:6-8 Catechism Q&A questions 34-37, 51-66	

1. Who is the Triune God?

2. Who are the Persons of God?

3. Why is recognizing and praising the Trinity important to our faith?

Point to Ponder: The mystery of the divine Trinity comes to expression in various ways in the Bible. However, the Bible doesn't mention the term "Trinity." Read Genesis 1:26 for an example of how the Trinity is revealed in Scripture.

Call to Action: Next time you hear the benediction blessing at the end of the divine service, from 2 Corinthians 13:14, share with someone after service what it means to you to have this blessing pronounced over you and the congregation.