

What Is the Trinity?

A Teaching Guide for the Booklet

by Marcia Stoner

What Is the Trinity?
A study of God in three persons
A Teaching Guide for the Booklet

Copyright © 2013 Abingdon Press
All rights reserved.

Written by Marcia Stoner
Production Editor: Christy Lynch
Designer: Keitha Vincent

ISBN 978-1-426-77541-3
PACP01352634-01

What Is the Trinity? A Teaching Guide for the Booklet

Before the Class Arrives:

- Decide if you will cover this material in one or two sessions.

Arrival Activity (5 minutes)

- Call each student by name and check in with her or him. How are things going? (This is one of the most important parts of your lesson.)
- Have three hula-hoops available. Have three students compete at a time to see who can twirl the hoop around his or her waist for the longest period of time.
- Ask the students what a circle is a symbol for. (eternity, God)
- Have the students work together to lay the three hula-hoops on the floor, overlapping one another as shown on page 26 of the booklet.
- Explain that three equal overlapping circles is a symbol for the Trinity.

What Is the Trinity? (5 minutes)

- Pass out the booklets.
- Together read "What Is?" on page 5 and "God in Three Persons" on page 6.

Use Your Bibles (20 minutes)

- Give each student a Bible.
- Divide the students into three teams. Divide up the Persons of the Trinity Bible work as follows:
 - Team One: "God and the Bible" on pages 12 & 13
 - Team Two: "I am" on pages 16 & 17
 - Team Three: "What Do You Know About the Spirit?" on pages 22 & 23
- Have each team use their Bibles to complete their Bible work.
- Bring everyone back together, and in the order listed above, ask a spokesperson from each group to read any information (NOT the instructions) and the answers to their Bible work.

What Is the Trinity? A Teaching Guide for the Booklet

Is That a Trinity Symbol? (10 minutes)

- Divide the children into two or more teams. Give each team a bell, a whistle, or another object with which they can signal when their team has the answer.
- Explain that you will draw a symbol on a dry erase board or a large sheet of paper. As soon as a team recognizes the symbol, they are to ring the bell (or signal in whatever way you have chosen).
- The first team to signal gets one opportunity to tell you if the symbol is a Trinity symbol or not. If their answer is correct, the team gets five points. If the team is incorrect, five points will be subtracted from their total score.
- Additional points may be scored if the team can tell you why it's a Trinity symbol, or if it is not a symbol of the Trinity, if they can name what it does symbolize.
- Simple Trinity symbols are on pages 24, 25, & 26.
- Other symbol possibilities:
 - Christmas symbols such as a star or an angel
 - Christian symbols such as the cross or a boat (which signifies the church)
 - Secular advertising symbols

Decorate Trinity Symbols (15 minutes)

- Set out as many different types of craft materials as you can easily find.
- Have students look at the Trinity symbols on pages 24, 25, & 26.
- Ask students to work individually, in pairs, or possibly in groups of three.
- Have each student or group choose one of the symbols to make.
- Challenge them to use the available materials to make their symbols as unique as possible.
- Display the symbols for all to see.

What Is the Trinity? A Teaching Guide for the Booklet

I Believe (10 minutes)

- Explain to the students that there are specific things the Christian faith affirms about the Trinity. These beliefs about the Trinity are at the heart of what Christians believe.
- Divide the children into three groups. Explain that they will be looking at some of these beliefs.
- Assign each group one of the three parts of "I Believe."
 - Group One: Part 1, page 10
 - Group Two: Part 2, page 14
 - Group Three: Part 3, page 20
- Encourage the students in the groups to work together to get their answers.
- Check with each group to be sure that they arrive at the correct answer.
- Ask Group One to read its completed answer as a group.
- Ask Group Two to read its completed answer as a group.
- Ask a volunteer from Group One to read the first sentence of "I Believe," Part 3.
- Have Group Three tell the others what the answer to their puzzle is.

Encourage the students to read and do the rest of the activities in their booklets at home.

For more information, see the following resource:

Symbols of Faith by Marcia Stoner (Abingdon Press, 2001). Provides information, activities, and reproducible patterns for Christian symbols. For intergenerational use, but most appropriate for eight- to twelve-year-old students. *Paperback, \$18.00; ISBN-13: 978-0-687-09475-2*