

An Apple For Trinity

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-19

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:19a, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'

The Children's Sermon

Have you ever eaten an apple? Of course you have. Look at this apple. It is one of God's creations. It can help us understand that there is still only one God. Have the children name the three parts of the apple, the skin, the flesh and the core. All the parts are uniquely different, but they are all one apple. There are basically three parts - the skin, the flesh, and the core. All the parts are still one apple, yet they are all uniquely different. Each part of the apple - the peel, flesh, core - have different functions, yet are all "apple" and nothing else. The Trinity [three parts] of God - Father, Son Jesus, Holy Spirit - are all God in different forms. Just as the peel protects the apple - God the Father protects humankind, an apple has flesh - Jesus was God made flesh and the core of the apple, like the Holy Spirit, contains the seeds. Just as seeds of apple trees grow in fertile, watered and cared for ground; seeds of faith will sprout, grow and flourish. The seeds of faith are just that - faith - in God. We Christians need to nurture and care for one another to keep the seeds of faith alive.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to know your love through Jesus, to feel your power in the Holy Spirit, and to praise your splendor in creation. Amen.

Now, let's talk more about how this apple helps us understand the Trinity in Matthew 28. In the Bible, in Matthew 28, Jesus tells us to go make friends all over the world and teach them about God. He says to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That's like saying, "Remember, God is like this apple - three parts, but still one."

Imagine if you could only eat the skin of the apple, you'd miss out on the sweet flesh and the seeds that can grow into more apple trees. It's the same with knowing God. If we only know one part of Him, we miss out on everything else He offers. The Trinity in Matthew 28 helps us remember that God has different ways of showing His love and power, but it's all still Him.

Let's think about how each part of the apple does something special. The skin keeps the apple safe, like how God the Father keeps us safe. The flesh of the apple is good to eat, which is like Jesus, who came to be with us and show us how to live. The seeds in the core can grow into new trees, just like the Holy Spirit helps us grow in our faith.

Now, imagine you're holding an apple seed. This tiny seed can grow into a big, beautiful apple tree, but it needs soil, water, and sunlight. Our faith is like that seed. We need to learn about God, pray, and help others to grow strong in our belief. The Trinity in Matthew 28 is like the recipe for growing our faith. It shows us all the parts of God that help us grow.

Sometimes, we might feel scared or alone, but remember the apple. Just like the apple is always an apple, no matter which part you're looking at, God is always with us, in every way. When you're scared, God the Father is protecting you. When you're sad,

Jesus understands and is with you. And when you're not sure what to do, the Holy Spirit can guide you.

Let's do a fun activity. Draw a big apple and divide it into three parts. In one part, write "God the Father." In another, write "Jesus." And in the last part, write "Holy Spirit." Then, around the apple, write down ways you feel or see God in your life. It could be feeling safe in a storm, feeling loved by your family, or knowing what's right when making a choice. This is your Trinity apple, showing how God is with you in many ways.

Remember, just like an apple is made of different parts but is still one apple, God shows Himself in different ways but is still one God. The Trinity in Matthew 28 teaches us this important truth. So, next time you see an apple, think about how amazing God is and how He is always with us, in every part of our lives.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for being with us in so many ways. Help us to see Your love in everything and to grow strong in our faith, just like a little seed grows into a big apple tree. Amen.

So, kids, let's keep learning about the Trinity in Matthew 28 and all the ways God loves us. And remember, just like an apple, God's love and presence are always there, in every part of our lives.

Bible Memory Verse

Matthew 28:19a, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'

You Will Need:

-Globe or world map

- Construction paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers or stamps

Get Ready:

- Cut construction paper into the shape of small flags (one for each child).
- Set up a station with markers, crayons, or colored pencils and stickers or stamps.

Do This:

1. Explain the meaning of the memory verse, emphasizing the importance of sharing the message of Jesus with people from all over the world.
2. Have each child pick a country on the globe or world map. Encourage them to think about people in that country who may have never heard about Jesus.
3. Give each child a paper flag and ask them to decorate it with markers, crayons, or colored pencils, inspired by the country they chose. They can use stickers or stamps to add more details.
4. Once everyone has finished their flags, gather the children and have them share the country they chose and one thing they would tell someone from that country about Jesus. Encourage them to pray for the people in that country.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A globe or world map
- Small sticky notes or flags
- Pens or markers
- A large poster board
- Construction paper (various colors)

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Write "Matthew 28:18-19" at the top of the poster board.
- Cut out footprints from the construction paper.
- Place the globe or world map in a central location where all the kids can see it.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction to the Scripture****: Start by reading Matthew 28:18-19 together.

Discuss the meaning of the Great Commission and how it applies to everyone, emphasizing the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and how we are called to share God's love with the world.

2. ****Mapping the Mission****: Give each child a sticky note or flag. Have them write their name on it and place it on the globe or map in a country or city they feel called to share God's love, explaining why they chose that particular place. This visualizes the global mission of the church.

3. ****Footsteps of Faith Activity****: Distribute the paper footprints and markers. Ask each child to write an action on a footprint that they can take to fulfill the Great Commission in their daily lives (e.g., being kind to others, sharing about Jesus with a friend, helping those in need). Then, have them glue their footprints onto the poster board, creating a path. This represents their personal commitment to taking steps of faith in obedience to Jesus' command.

4. ****Reflection and Prayer****: Gather the children around the poster board and the globe/map. Reflect on the diversity of places they chose and the variety of actions they committed to. Close with a prayer, asking for God's guidance and strength as they seek to live out the Great Commission in their own lives, acknowledging the role of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this mission.

Snack Activity: Trinity Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Marshmallows
- Chocolate chips
- Small plastic bags or cups
- Napkins
- A Bible

Get Ready: Read Matthew 28:18-19 together and discuss the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and how Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations.

Do this:

1. Explain that each ingredient represents a part of the Trinity: Pretzel sticks for the Father (the strong base), Marshmallows for the Son (sweetness of salvation), and Chocolate chips for the Holy Spirit (spreading warmth and comfort).
2. Have each child take a plastic bag or cup and add a handful of each ingredient to make their own Trinity Trail Mix. As they do this, encourage them to think about the roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in their lives.

3. Encourage the children to share their Trinity Trail Mix with someone else in the class, explaining the significance of each component as they do so, to practice spreading the word and making disciples, as Jesus instructed.

Game Activity: Disciple Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Boundary markers (cones, ropes, or chalk)
- A soft ball or beanbag
- Name tags for each child with names of disciples/apostles or other biblical figures

Get Ready: Mark a large play area with clear boundaries using the cones, ropes, or chalk. Prepare name tags beforehand, writing the names of the disciples and other significant biblical figures on them. Each child will choose or be assigned a tag as they enter the game area.

Do this:

1. The game starts with one child holding the ball or beanbag, designated as 'It'. This child represents Jesus sending out his disciples as mentioned in Matthew 28:18-19. The goal is to 'send' as many disciples as possible by gently tagging them with the ball or beanbag.
2. When a child is tagged, they join hands with 'It', forming a growing chain of disciples. The game continues until all children are part of the chain, symbolizing the spreading of Jesus' teachings and the growth of the Church.
3. To add a layer of challenge and fun, once the chain of disciples has more than four people, it can split into two groups, representing the spread of the Gospel to different

parts of the world. The game ends when everyone is part of a chain, emphasizing the unity and global mission of the Church.

Craft Activity: Go and Make Disciples Globe

You'll Need:

- A small, inflatable globe or a printable world map
- Permanent markers of various colors
- Ribbon or string
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Inflate the globe if using an inflatable one, or print and cut out the world map. Prepare a space where the children can comfortably sit and work on their craft.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 28:18-19 together as a class. Discuss the meaning of the Great Commission and how it applies to everyone, everywhere.
2. Have each child use the markers to highlight areas on the globe or map where they know missionaries are working or where they have friends or family. Encourage them to think globally.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the world map (if using paper) or tie the ribbon/string around the inflatable globe's valve. Ask the children to write 'Go and Make Disciples' along with their name on a piece of the ribbon or on the globe/map itself.
4. Close with a prayer, asking God to help each of them be a disciple wherever they are, and to remember the global mission of the church.

Prayer Activity: Trinity Globe Prayers

You'll Need:

- A small globe or world map
- Different colored sticky notes
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Read Matthew 28:18-19 together and discuss the concept of the Trinity and the Great Commission. Explain how Jesus wants us to share His love and teachings with everyone around the world.

Do this:

1. Have each child write a prayer on a sticky note for one of the three aspects of the Trinity: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. Encourage them to think about what each part of the Trinity means to them and the world.
2. Once they've written their prayers, have them place their sticky notes on the globe or map on the area they feel led to pray for. It could be their own country, a place they've learned about, or somewhere they feel needs God's love and guidance.
3. Gather in a circle around the globe or map. One by one, let the children read their prayers aloud and then pray together for the world, asking for the Father's guidance, Jesus' love, and the Holy Spirit's wisdom to fulfill the Great Commission.