

Counting To Three

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28:19

Memory Verse: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about a really big word: TRINITY. It might sound a bit tricky, but don't worry, we'll break it down together. We're going to learn about how we can see the Trinity in Matthew 28:19 and what that means for us.

So, let's start with the word TRINITY. This word helps us understand something very special about God. We believe in ONE God, but this one God shows Himself to us in three different ways. It's like having one apple, but the apple has three parts: the skin, the flesh, and the seeds. All different, but all part of the same apple.

Now, when we pray, we often start with the words, "Our Father..." This is one way we talk to God. But God also comes to us as Jesus, His Son, and as the Holy Spirit. These three - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - are what we call the Trinity. It's a bit like having a best friend who is also a superhero and a great storyteller. They're the same person, but you see different sides of them depending on what you're doing together.

Let's dive into the Trinity in Matthew 28:19. This verse is super important because it's where Jesus tells us to go and make friends all over the world and teach them to be like Him. He says to baptize them "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Here, Jesus is telling us about the Trinity! He's saying that God is like a team, working together in different roles but still being one big, loving God.

Imagine you're on a soccer team. You have a goalie, defenders, and strikers. They all have different jobs, but they're all playing for the same team. That's a bit like how the Trinity works. God, in three persons, is like the ultimate team, working together to show us love, teach us, and take care of us.

Now, why do you think it's important for us to know about the Trinity in Matthew 28:19? Well, it helps us understand that God is always with us, in every way we might need Him. When we're scared, the Holy Spirit can be like a comforting whisper in our hearts. When we need guidance, Jesus is like a big brother showing us the way. And God the Father is always watching over us, loving us no matter what.

But here's something really cool. Even though the Trinity might sound a bit complicated, it shows us just how much God loves us. He wants to make sure we can feel His love and help in every part of our lives. It's like having a super team of heroes always ready to come to our rescue.

Now, you might wonder, how can we get closer to this amazing Trinity? Well, we can talk to God through prayer, just like chatting with a friend. We can read stories about Jesus in the Bible to learn how to be more like Him. And we can listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance when we're not sure what to do.

Remember, the Trinity in Matthew 28:19 is a special way to remember that God is always with us, in every moment of our lives. Whether we're playing, learning, or even sleeping, God's love is wrapping around us like a warm blanket.

So, the next time you look up at the sky or hug a friend, remember the Trinity. It's a reminder that God's love is super big, able to reach us anywhere and everywhere, in all the different ways we might need.

And that's pretty awesome, isn't it? God is like a superhero team all in one, always there to protect, guide, and love us. So let's keep learning about this amazing God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and how we can be a part of His big, loving family.

Thanks for listening, kids! Remember, God loves you so much, and He's always with you, in every way, every day.

Bible Memory Verse

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Stickers related to the theme (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large circles, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a board or large piece of paper where all the children can see it.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle and give each one a large paper circle, markers, and access to the glue and scissors.
2. Explain that the circle represents the world and they are going to create their own world by drawing people, animals, and nature on their paper. Encourage them to think about all the different countries and people in the world.
3. After they finish their world, help them write the memory verse on their paper. They can decorate their world with stickers if available. Explain that when Jesus tells us to 'go and make disciples of all nations,' it means sharing His love and teachings with everyone, everywhere, just like they included many different things in their world.
4. Once everyone is done, have a short discussion about the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and how we can share God's love with others.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large bowl of water
- A cup of oil
- Food coloring (red, blue, yellow)
- Droppers or small spoons
- A white paper or cloth (large enough to catch splashes)
- Permanent markers
- A printout of Matthew 28:19

Get Ready:

- Cover your work area with the white paper or cloth to prevent stains.
- Fill the large bowl with water, representing the world.
- Pour the cup of oil into a clear container, this represents us before knowing God.
- Mix each food coloring with a little water in separate containers (these will represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Do this:

1. ****Introduce the Trinity****: Explain that just like water, oil, and food coloring are different, God shows Himself in three ways: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. Use the permanent markers to label each food coloring container with "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit."
2. ****Read Matthew 28:19****: Show the printout and read the verse together. Highlight "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Discuss how Jesus wants us to be close to all three parts of God.
3. ****See the Trinity in Action****: First, show how the oil (us) floats on the water (world) and doesn't mix, showing how sometimes we feel apart from the world or lost. Then, use the droppers or spoons to add drops of each colored water (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) into the oil. As the colored water passes through the oil, it will eventually mix with the water below, creating a beautiful mix of colors in the bowl. Explain that when we let God into our lives, He mixes with us and helps us become part of something beautiful in the world, just like the colors mix with the water but not the oil.

4. **Reflection**: Ask the children how they can let God be a part of their lives every day, encouraging them to think of ways they can connect with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Snack Activity: Trinity Treats

You'll Need:

- 1 package of pretzel sticks
- 1 bag of white chocolate chips
- Green food coloring
- Wax paper
- 1 small microwave-safe bowl
- 1 spoon

Get Ready: Place a sheet of wax paper on a flat surface where your Trinity Treats will cool.

Do this:

1. In the small microwave-safe bowl, melt the white chocolate chips in the microwave. Heat for 30 seconds, stir, and repeat until fully melted. Be careful, the bowl might be hot!
2. Once the white chocolate is melted, add a few drops of green food coloring and stir until you get a nice green color. This represents the unity and eternal life of the Trinity.
3. Dip one end of each pretzel stick into the melted green chocolate to coat it about a third of the way up. Lay the pretzel on the wax paper. Then, group the pretzels in sets of three, laying them on the wax paper so that they touch at the top, forming a triangle. This triangle represents the Holy Trinity, just like in Matthew 28:19, where Jesus mentions the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4. Let the chocolate harden. You can put them in the refrigerator for a few minutes to speed up the process.

5. Once the chocolate is set, your Trinity Treats are ready to enjoy! Share with friends and talk about how the three sides of the triangle remind us of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit being three in one.

Game Activity: Trinity Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- Three different colored sets of objects (e.g., red, blue, green balls or paper circles)
- Baskets or bags for collecting items
- A map of the play area (optional)

Get Ready: Hide the objects around your play area before the children arrive, making sure there are equal numbers of each color. If using a map, mark the general locations of the objects to make it easier for the children.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into three teams. Explain that each team is searching for one color of the objects, representing one part of the Holy Trinity: Father (red), Son (blue), and Holy Spirit (green).
2. Give each team a basket or bag for collecting their objects. If you're using a map, give one to each team to help them find their objects.
3. When you say 'Go,' teams will search for their colored objects. Once all objects are found, gather the children and discuss how the Trinity is like the game: three distinct parts, each different (like the colors), but all part of one God. Relate this back to Matthew 28:19, explaining how Jesus commissioned us to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, showing the unity and importance of all three.

Craft Activity: Trinity Sunday Watercolor Craft

You'll Need:

- White paper (preferably watercolor paper)
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- A cup of water
- A black marker

Get Ready: Write Matthew 28:19 at the top or bottom of the paper with a black marker. Make sure to leave enough space in the middle for painting.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the Trinity is like a triangle with three equal sides, showing how God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three in one. Draw a large triangle in the center of the paper.
2. Inside the triangle, draw three smaller overlapping circles that touch each other. Explain that each circle represents God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They are separate but also one, just like the Trinity.
3. Let the children choose three different colors to paint each circle. As they paint, encourage them to think about the different roles of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. After they finish painting, they can use the remaining space to freely express what the Trinity means to them through colors and shapes.

Prayer Activity: Trinity Sunday Prayer Circle

You'll Need:

- A large sheet of paper
- Markers or crayons
- A Bible

Get Ready: Before the activity, draw a large triangle in the center of the sheet of paper and write 'Father,' 'Son,' and 'Holy Spirit' at each corner of the triangle. Also, write Matthew 28:19 inside the triangle.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the large sheet of paper on the floor. Start by reading Matthew 28:19 together, explaining that Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
2. Explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons but one God, which is why we call it the Trinity. It's like having three different ways to experience God's love!
3. Invite each child to think of one way they feel God's love (through family, friends, nature, etc.) and draw a symbol or picture of it around the triangle. As they draw, encourage them to say a short prayer thanking God for that specific way they experience His love.
4. Once everyone has had a turn, hold hands in a circle around the paper and say a closing prayer together, thanking God for His presence in our lives in so many forms and asking for help to share His love with others.