

Counting To Three

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28:19

Memory Verse: Therefore 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

Therefore 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:

- World map or globe
- Colorful yarn or string
- Pushpins or small stickers
- Index cards
- Colored markers or pens

Get Ready:

- Cut the yarn or string into 12-inch pieces.
- Write the memory verse on index cards, one word per card, and shuffle them.

Do This:

1. Spread the world map or place the globe where all children can see it. Discuss the meaning of 'all nations' by pointing out different countries on the map or globe.
2. Give each child a piece of yarn or string and ask them to connect two countries by pinning or sticking each end of their string to the map or globe, symbolizing the connection between nations through the spreading of the Gospel.
3. Mix up the memory verse index cards and challenge the children to work together to arrange the cards in the correct order of the verse. Once completed, have them recite the verse together, emphasizing the global mission of making disciples.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large world map or globe
- Different colored sticky notes or flags
- Pens or markers
- A Bible or printed copies of Matthew 28:19
- Small wooden crosses (one per child)
- Paints and brushes
- A bowl of water

Get Ready:

- Place the world map or globe in a central location where all children can reach.
- Prepare the sticky notes or flags and pens/markers on a table nearby.

- Set up a painting station with small wooden crosses, paints, and brushes.
- Place the bowl of water on a separate table with enough space around it for the group.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 28:19 together as a group. Discuss the meaning of "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and the concept of the Trinity.
2. Invite each child to choose a country on the map or globe. They will write a prayer for the people living in that country on a sticky note or flag, asking God to help them know Jesus. Then, they'll place their note or flag on the chosen country.
3. Move to the painting station. Each child will paint a small wooden cross, symbolizing their commitment to being a disciple of Jesus and sharing His love with others. Allow them to be creative.
4. Conclude with a "Baptism Remembrance" activity at the bowl of water. Gently sprinkle a few drops of water on each child's head, reminding them of their baptism (if baptized) or the significance of baptism in the Christian faith. Reinforce the idea of being called to share God's love with everyone, everywhere, just as Jesus instructed in Matthew 28:19.

Snack Activity: Trinity Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Small marshmallows
- Chocolate chips
- 3 small bowls
- 1 large mixing bowl

- Measuring cups

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and wash your hands.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 28:19 together. Discuss the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and how it can be difficult to understand but is an essential part of our faith.
2. Assign each of the three ingredients to a part of the Trinity: Pretzel sticks for the Father (strength and support), marshmallows for the Son (Jesus is sweet and pure), and chocolate chips for the Holy Spirit (spreading warmth and comfort in our hearts).
3. In the three small bowls, separate the ingredients. Talk about how even though the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct, they are all part of one God.
4. Mix equal parts of each ingredient in the large mixing bowl. As you mix, discuss how the Trinity works together in unity. Each part of the mix is different, but together, they make a delicious snack, just as the Trinity works together in our lives.
5. Enjoy the snack together, and encourage the children to share their thoughts on the Trinity and how they see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working in their lives.

Game Activity: Trinity Treasure Tag

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Three different colored sets of items (e.g., balls, bean bags, or small flags) to represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- A timer or stopwatch
- Baskets or designated areas for collected items

Get Ready: Before the game, define the play area and place the colored items randomly throughout the area. Assign each color to represent one aspect of the Trinity: one for the Father, one for the Son, and one for the Holy Spirit. Explain the significance of Matthew 28:19 and how it relates to the concept of the Trinity.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into three teams. Each team is assigned to collect one color of item that represents a part of the Trinity. Explain that as they collect the items, they are spreading the message of the Trinity, just as Matthew 28:19 instructs us to spread the teachings of Jesus.
2. On 'Go,' teams rush to collect their colored items. They can only collect one item at a time and must return it to their designated basket or area before collecting another.
3. The game continues for a set time limit (e.g., 10 minutes). When time is up, count the items in each team's basket. The team with the most items collected represents how effectively they've 'spread the word' and understood the mission of the Trinity.

After the game, gather the children and discuss how each part of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) works together in unity, just like they did in the game, to spread the love and teachings of Jesus throughout the world.

Craft Activity: Go, Make, Baptize – A Trinity Craft

You'll Need:

- A large piece of blue construction paper
- Green, white, and yellow construction paper
- Markers or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Get Ready: Cut the green paper into shapes of people, the white paper into dove shapes, and the yellow paper into flame shapes.

Do this:

1. On the large blue paper, draw a globe using the markers or colored pencils. This represents the world we are called to go out into.
2. Glue the green people shapes around the globe, symbolizing us going and making disciples of all nations as instructed in Matthew 28:19.
3. Add the white dove shapes above some of the people to represent the Holy Spirit being with us as we spread the word of God. Then, add the yellow flame shapes to symbolize the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit's guidance.
4. Write 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' around the edge of the globe to remind us of our mission as followers of Christ.

Prayer Activity: Go, Make, Baptize – A Trinity Sunday Adventure

You'll Need:

- A globe or world map
- Small sticky notes
- Markers

Get Ready: Write Matthew 28:19 on a large piece of paper and place it where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Matthew 28:19 together as a class. Discuss the meaning of the verse, focusing on the concepts of the Trinity and the call to make disciples.
2. Bring out the globe or world map. Explain that as followers of Jesus, we are called to share His love and teachings with everyone, everywhere.
3. Give each child a sticky note and a marker. Ask them to think of one way they can share God's love or teach others about Jesus. It could be something they can do in their community, school, or even with friends and family.
4. Once they have written down their idea, have them place their sticky note on the globe or map in a location they feel called to share God's love. It could be their own city, a country they've heard about, or a place they dream of visiting.
5. Close with a prayer circle. Invite each child to pray for the place they chose, asking God to help them fulfill the Great Commission in their own unique way, whether it's near or far.