

LESSON PLANⁱ

*FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION*ⁱⁱ

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

Topic: The Blessed Trinity

Grade Level: First Grade

Standardⁱⁱⁱ 1: Creed -Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

Indicators:

- 1.01.04 State belief that there are Three Persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the [Holy Trinity](#).
- 1.01.05 State that Jesus is God's Son who was sent by him to teach us how to love one another as his children.
- 1.01.06 Identify God the Holy Spirit as God's Spirit alive in us and in the Church.

Background Reading for Catechist/Facilitator:

- Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"
- John 14:25-26 "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name (Jesus) will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Environment: Examples of the Holy Trinity on the board: a shamrock, a Trinity Knot

Materials: Yarn, Three different colors (white, blue and yellow), cut into equal sections

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome: Greet children by name.

Prayer: "Lord, please help us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do. Amen!"

Preview: Show students the "Images of the Trinity" I have on the board and the table. The Shamrock: St. Patrick used this simple plant to teach about the Trinity. Just

as there is one stem and three leaves, so God is one with three persons. The Trinity Knot – The lines are unending, symbolizing that God is eternal, yet there are three distinct sections to the knot for the three persons of the Trinity.

Presentation:

1. Give each child a long piece of each different colored yarn. Explain that each color represents a different part of the Trinity (white for the Father, blue for the Son, yellow for the Holy Spirit).
2. Help them tie all three pieces together on one end.
3. Hold up a student's braided yarn and have the class observe and describe what they see. How many pieces are there? One -right?
4. Unbraid the yarn and ask the students how many pieces I have now. Three - right?
5. Re-braid the yarn and tie both ends together, making a circle. Ask the class to observe and describe what they see. One unending piece, right? Explain how this represents an unending braid, symbolizing that God is eternal, yet there are three distinct pieces within, illustrating the three persons of the Trinity.

Evaluation/Response: Ask the students to apply their newfound knowledge, and try to make a Trinity knot, using their braided circles, on their desk. Offer assistance if necessary.

Assignment: Ask the students to wear their Trinity necklaces and explain to their family members what the three different colors represent the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and that they make up the Holy Trinity.

Closing Prayer:

The time has come, O Lord - for us to leave this place; guide us and protect us and lead us in thy grace. Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways, help us share with others the things we've learned today. May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son, guide us in the days ahead and strengthen each one of us. May the blessing of the Holy Spirit fill us from within; God bless us and return us to the fellowship once again. Amen!!

Evaluation of the Lesson: Were my students able to differentiate between the three pieces of string and the braid?

ⁱ The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word “session” for “lesson,” and the word “participant” for “student.”

ⁱⁱ The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.