Lesson 5: God Is Three in One

Overview:

Key Focus: God loves and cares for us through the three parts of the Trinity.

Bible Story: The Trinity

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1–2, 26; John 1:1–3; Matthew 3:16–17

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- (Option1) A hard-boiled egg
- (Option 2) Apple, peeler, and table knife
- (Option 3) Water in a pitcher, ice cubes, and portable humidifier or another way to show vapor
- Three sheets of paper

Classroom Prep:

- Write the memory verse in three parts on the whiteboard or large strips of paper.

Engage:

Choose one of the objects to demonstrate three different parts or forms of one thing:

1. Egg: Hold up the hard-boiled egg. **How many eggs am I holding?** (one) **Today's lesson teaches that God has three parts, and each part is God.** Peel the shell and place it on a paper and write *God the Father,* on the paper. Next, open the white part and take out the yolk. Place the egg white on a paper and write *God the Son, Jesus.* Finally, place the egg yolk on the last paper and write *God the Holy Spirit*. One at a time, hold up each paper and ask what this is part of (an egg). **Each of the three parts of the egg has a different role or job: the shell protects, the white cushions the yolk and contains the**

protein, and the yolk is what has the vitamins. Each part of God is equally God and has different roles that we will learn about throughout the year. This is a very difficult idea for adults to understand, and the egg gives us a way to try to understand, but until we get to heaven, we really can't fully understand.

2. Apple: Use the technique for the egg, but peel the apple, cut the flesh, and reveal the seeds.

3. Water: Use the technique for the egg, but show that water can be liquid, solid, and vapor.

Memory Verse Activity:
When you hear a word with the prefix *tri-* that means the word has something to do with the number "three." Trinity is the word used to explain the three parts of God. Display on the board or on large sheets of paper, the three sections of the verse: 1. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, 2. and the love of God, 3. and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all.

Group kids in groups of three and give each person in the group a number 1–3 to show what part of the verse to read/say. Have each group member say their part of the verse in the correct order, and everyone joins with "Amen." Repeat several times and switch the numbers to give children practice with the different parts of the verse.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

Bible Story:

The Bible is the one and only source to help us understand God. The Bible tells us many things, but it also shows us things that are difficult to understand about God. We use the word Trinity to talk about the three parts of God. The Bible tells us that God is three-in-one. Just like an egg has three different parts to it, each part is called an egg: egg shell, egg white, and egg yolk. The three parts of God are God the Father, God the Son, who we know is Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit. Encourage the children to listen carefully and do the following when they hear "God the Father" stamp their feet three times, "God the Son" clap three times, and "God the Holy Spirit" snap their fingers three times.

Genesis 1 tells us something very interesting about God. Read Genesis 1:1–2. **Verse two mentions another part of God, who does it mention?** (the Spirit of God) **We already learned that God is the creator of all things. Imagine with me that God the Father, Son, and**

Holy Spirit are all together helping create the heavens and the earth where we live. Remember, they are three separate parts that are God.

Listen carefully as I read Genesis 1:26 and listen for clue words that show all three parts of God are creating together. Read verse 26. **What clue words did you hear?** (Us, Our) **The pronouns "us" and "our" are plural and mean more than one. When I talk about myself, I use the pronouns "me" or "I."** Choose two children to stand beside you. **When I talk about the three of us, I use the words "us" or "our." The Bible clearly shows us that God has more than one part. What are the names of the three parts of God?** (God the Father, God the Son, Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit)

The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The book of Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament. The Old Testament begins with the creation of all things and how sin entered the world and caused separation from God. God had the plan to fix the problem of sin, and the plan was for one of the parts of God to come down to earth to pay the price of sin. What part of God came down to the earth to live? (God the Son, Jesus) **The New Testament begins with God the Son, Jesus coming down to the earth to live, die, and be resurrected back to life to pay for our sins. Let's read what the New Testament says about the Trinity being part of creation.** Read John 1:1–3. **In these verses, Jesus is called "The Word." This verse shows that Jesus, the Son of God is part of God and took part in creating all things.**

Now let's look at another place in the New Testament where we find all three parts of God. Read Matthew 3:16–17 and let the children talk about their baptism or a baptism they watched. **When Jesus was baptized, He was joined by God the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove and resting on Him. This is why the symbol or picture for the Holy Spirit is a dove. Where have you seen the symbol of a dove?** (Answers will vary.) **What clue does verse 17 give that the voice was God, the Father's voice?** (The voice said, "My beloved Son," so it is God, the Father, speaking.) **God the Father, was proud of God the Son.**

Bible Story Questions:

- **How many parts make up God?** (three)
- **What are the different names for the parts of God?** (God the Father; God the Son, Jesus; and God the Holy Spirit)
- **When Jesus was baptized, how did God the Father show up?** (His voice spoke from heaven.)
- **When Jesus was baptized, how did God the Holy Spirit show up?** (He came down as a dove and rested on Jesus.)
- **Why do you think it is important to learn about the three parts of God**? (Answers will vary.)

- **What question do you have about understanding God the Father?** (Answers will vary.) Note: these questions will show you what the children hope to learn this quarter about God. Point out that some things we will learn in upcoming lessons, but others might not get answered until we get to heaven.
- **What question do you have about understanding God the Son, Jesus?** (Answers will vary.)
- **What question do you have about understanding God the Holy Spirit?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Whisper to each child one of the names of the parts of God: God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit. Choose one child from each part of God to stand in the middle of the group while the rest of the children sit on the floor in a large circle. Call out one of the names of the parts of God, and all children who were whispered that name should hop up and change places with someone's empty place in the circle. The child in the center also quickly finds a place to sit, and the child without a place joins the children in the center. Continue several times calling out the name of a different part of God. Children must trade places with someone new each time their name is called.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Give further help in understanding this difficult concept by relating how we don't have to understand electricity to appreciate and use it. If time allows, use all the object lessons from the Intro Activity (apple, egg, and water) and have kids explain how each shows the three-in-one concept.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Reinforce the concept of God is three in one as younger children make triangles by gluing popsicle sticks to form a triangle. Write each name of God on one of the sticks. You might want to glue the triangle on a sheet of construction paper, and in the center, write *Trinity* or *God Is 3 in 1*.

Worksheet:

Give everyone a word search and ask volunteers to read the explanations of the words to be found in the puzzle. This page could be done alone or in pairs.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three parts of one God.
I can love, know, and have a relationship with each part of God.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
A biblical worldview means you look at today's world and problems through the lens of what the Bible says. A critical biblical concept states that God is real and all three parts of God are equal. A biblical worldview believes that God has three equal parts: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Help children recognize that anyone who tries to tell them the Holy Spirit is not for this current time or that Jesus was just a good teacher goes against what the Bible says.

Missions Connections:
Many other cultures have gods, but none have the characteristics of God, such as love, healer, or provider. Only God has a plan of redemption for people that includes each part of the Trinity. Help children recognize that we use a lowercase “g” in the word god to show that it is not the one, True God. Share information about missionaries your church supports who might work with a culture that worships or follows a god/gods and pray for those missionaries.

Family Connection:
Have fun taking a “Trinity Hunt” and searching the house together to find things that are in groups of three. Whoever finds a group of three things shouts “Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.” Also, create a family list of difficult concepts, such as the Trinity, and questions to ask God when you get to heaven.

Prayer Points:

When we pray, we start our prayer by naming who we are praying to—God the Father. We end our prayer by reminding ourselves that we are praying in the power of the name of Jesus. Have the children repeat each phrase as you model how to pray.

Dear God,
thank You for loving us
and showing us
the three parts of God
throughout the Bible.
In Jesus' name,
amen.

Name _____

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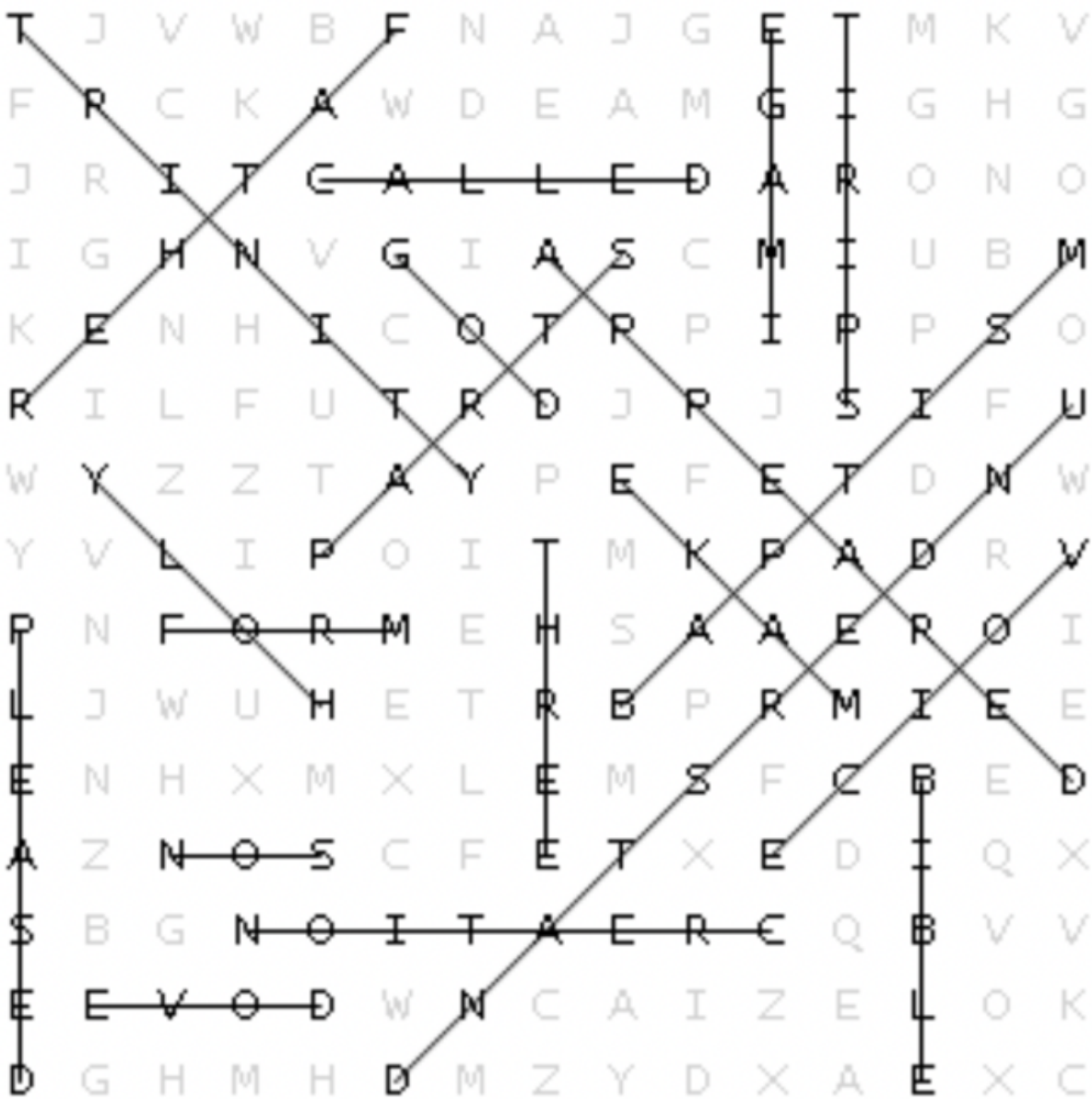
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Find the 20 ***bold*** *words in the puzzle.*

God is **three** in one. God the **Father**, God the **Son**, and God the **Holy Spirit** are the three **parts** of God. This is **called** the **Trinity**. The **Bible** helps us **understand** God. At **creation**, God said, "Let us **make** man in our **image**." At Jesus' **baptism**, God's **voice** said that He was **pleased**, and the Holy Spirit **appeared** in the **form** of a **dove**.

ANSWERS:

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