



LESSON
3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God's power, and the Trinity (#1)

Bible Character: God

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1, Hebrews 11:3

Week: 4 Date of Service: August 22nd & 23rd, 2009

Personal Preparation: As you read through Genesis 1, reflect on God's creation and the joy that went into the details and colors around you; think about the power of God as you view the details of everything He has created. How often do we speed through our days and weeks without worshipping God in response to living in His created world?



As you prepare to teach your campers this lesson, keep in mind that we cannot fully understand the Trinity. Our acceptance and belief of our God is based on faith. We cannot comprehend our God. Spend some time this week praising God for the fact that He is so much bigger than anything we know or understand. Reflect on how amazing it is that we have the opportunity to trust and give up our life to a God that is good and is so much bigger than ourselves. Spend some time praying that your campers will not dwell on the confusion that sometimes comes with studying the Trinity, but that they will respond with a sense of amazement at the power and complexity of the one true God.

Plug In Time - 5-10 Minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to receive campers. Check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson.



Review last week's s'more card, and encourage campers to complete their s'more card. Also, ask if anyone did their Bible reading plan from the bookmark this week.

Create Name Tags

Have each child create their own nametag by writing their name on it and decorating it.

Getting To Know Your Campers

Let each camper choose a color square. Next, tell them that you will go around the room and say their favorite _____ based on what color square they have. After

everyone has shared, let them choose a different color and repeat the game.

Red – Favorite sport Green – Favorite color Orange – Wildcard (favorite anything)
Blue – Favorite flavor of ice cream Yellow – Favorite animal

BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

(Saturday: 6:10-6:50pm; Sunday – First Service: 9:10-9:50am; Second Service: 11:10-11:50am)

**Bring your cabin flag to Big Group Time.*

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will begin with our first lesson for the year! We will start at the beginning of Genesis and read God’s Word to study and learn about the Trinity and Creation.



Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

(Saturday: 6:50-7:20pm; Sunday -First Service: 9:50-10:20; Second Service: 11:50-12:20pm)

Getting Started

What did you learn from Big Group? What was Confused mixed up about? (*We have one God who is three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit*) Do any of you feel like Confused?

The Trinity is a very hard thing to understand. Actually, we cannot fully understand God because He is God. If we could completely understand God, He would not be so amazing would He? Before we begin reading from God’s Word, let’s do an activity.

Confused?




The purpose is to begin defining faith and presenting a picture of the Trinity.

Supplies

- Trinity worksheet (1 per camper)
- Faith definition card – to believe and trust in who God is and what He has done for us (1 per bin)
- Bandana (1 per bin)

Have the campers fill in their Trinity worksheet. Next, read Hebrews 11:1 and come up with a definition of faith as a class. Let the campers talk through this before you help them settle on the correct definition.

To help show what faith is, try this exercise. Have two campers partner up, with one standing in front of the other (both facing same wall). Explain that the camper in front will fall backwards into the arms of the camper behind them. The camper falling will have to have faith that the camper behind them will catch them and not let them fall. Allow several different pairs of campers do the activity. Try putting a blindfold on the camper falling to emphasize the need to have faith.

 **Tie it together: We have a God who is eternal. This means that He has always been here, even before the world was created. He has no beginning and no end. God the Father created our world. He loved us so much that He sent His Son to live on earth as man. God the Son, Jesus, showed us by example how to live; He took our sin upon Himself when He died so that we do not have to be separated from God. When Jesus, God the Son, went to live with God the Father in Heaven, He left God the Holy Spirit to live with those who believe and trust in Him. Our God is one God. In our one God, we find the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the Trinity. We will never be able to understand this completely. God is so big and so perfect that we cannot fully understand Him. We can have faith that God is the one true God and He is three persons in one. It is amazing that we are able to worship and trust a God that is so much bigger than ourselves.**

Trinity Investigation




The purpose is to help the campers understanding of the Trinity.

Supplies

- Verse references –Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 per bin)
- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Characteristics Worksheet (1 per camper)

Divide the campers into three groups. Explain that the campers are to work together as “investigators” or “detectives”. Hand out a worksheet to all of the campers. Give one group the “Father Characteristics”, the second group the “Son Characteristics”, and the third group the “Holy Spirit Characteristics”. Next, hand out the verse reference sheets to the appropriate groups. Have the groups look up the verse references and write down the different characteristics displayed in the verses on their worksheet. Have each group share what they have discovered, and tell the campers to fill in the characteristics they do not have.

 **Tie it together: As we can see from all of these characteristics, our God is a big God! Our God is one God. Each part of God serves a different purpose in our lives. As the Father, God is our creator and sustainer of all things; He is love. As the Son, God is Immanuel (God with us), and our Savior. As the Holy Spirit, God fills our lives, is our helper, our teacher, our comforter, and a giver of gifts. Scripture shows us who God is. There are more verses than what each of you looked up that explain more about our God, but we will never fully understand**

everything about God. God just wants us to desire to know Him more. He wants to spend time getting to know Him through reading His Word and through prayer. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has always been here. God is eternal. What does eternal mean? (Allow responses) Eternal means He has no beginning and no end. He has always been God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, even before the earth and everything we know existed. And He will be here even when this world is not here.

Creation



The purpose is to help the campers picture God's creation.

Supplies

-“Creation Timeline” worksheet (1 per camper)

-Crayons

Hand each child a “Creation Timeline” worksheet. Explain that they can draw a picture of what God created each day as you read through the scripture. Pause after each verse to give the campers a chance to draw each aspect of God's creation. Also, make a list on the white board with what God created each day.

(Day 1 – light, Day 2 – sky and waters, Day 3 – land and plants, Day 4 – sun, moon and stars, Day 5 – birds and fish, Day 6 – animals and people)

God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is also the Creator of all things. Everything around you that you see, God created. He even created the things you do not see!

Let's read about His creation in Genesis 1 [NLT]



Genesis 1:1-12

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

The rest of chapter 1 explains how God creates everything. The Bible tells us that God made earth and sky on the second day, and land with all kinds of plants and trees on the third day. On the fourth day He made the sun, moon and stars in our universe. On the fifth day, He made birds in the sky, and fish and other sea creatures in the water. On the sixth day He created all sorts of different animals, and He ended His creation with us, human beings. On the seventh day, God rested.



Tie it together: What does the Bible tell us the earth looked like in the beginning? (It had no form, and was empty and dark) How did God create the world? He simply spoke it into existence. God said “Let there be light,” and there was light. All God did was speak to create everything in the heavens and the earth, and He said that all of it was good. Think about the world around you –mountains, lakes, clouds, trees, plants, etc. Isn’t it amazing to think about all of the different things God created? What would your life be like without these things? God desires for us to enjoy the beauty of His creation. God’s creation shows us how amazing and loving God is. When you see these things that God created, do you thank Him for creating these things? Do you praise Him for who He is?

Creative Creations



The purpose is to help the campers understand God’s creation.

Supplies

- Construction paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Cotton balls
- Sock
- Bandana
- Pictures of famous works of art (1 sheet per bin)

Break the campers into groups of two or three. Give each group three to five minutes to create something using the materials on the table. After time is up, allow each group to tell about their creation. Then show the different pictures of famous works of art and talk about the beauty of the artist’s creation.



Tie it together: Did you have many things to work with to make your creations? Could you have made your creation without anything? (Allow responses) Could these artists have painted these pictures without brushes or paint? We can create interesting and beautiful things, but in order to make anything, we need materials. You could not make your creations without the things provided. The artists could not create their works of art without paint and a canvas. God created the world from absolutely nothing. He simply spoke and things came into existence. That is power! No one else is as powerful as God. He is all-powerful.

Read Hebrews 11:3.

Hebrews 11:3

1 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

God created everything from nothing. He *spoke* all of creation, everything in our universe, into existence. We may not be able to understand how He was able to create our universe just by speaking, but it is through faith that we believe that God created the entire universe by His command. It is also through faith that we believe that we have one God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is amazing that we can worship a God who is so powerful and amazing that we cannot fully understand everything about Him!

Teachers, if you have additional time, do the “Getting to Know Your Campers” activity again.

Spend some time in prayer to close Small Group time.

Hand out S’more cards and bookmarks!