



LESSON I

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God's power, and the Trinity

Bible Character: God

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1, Hebrews 11:3



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 worshiping 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 check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Getting To Know Your Campers

Supplies:

Colored pieces of cardstock (green, orange, blue, yellow, pink) (1 per color per bin)

Let each camper choose a color. Next, tell them that you will go around the room and say their favorite _____ based on what color they have. After everyone has shared, let them choose a different color and repeat the game.

Pink – Favorite sport

Green – Favorite color

Orange – Wildcard (favorite anything)
Blue – Favorite flavor of ice cream
Yellow – Favorite animal



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

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

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in 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:

White board

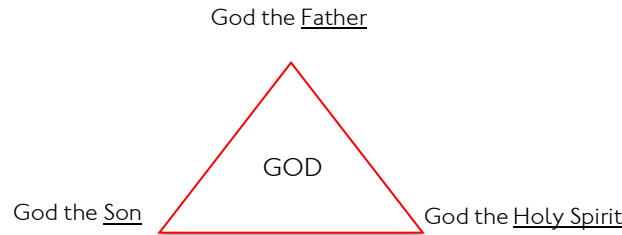
Bandana (1 per bin)

Draw a big red triangle in the middle of the white board. Write 'God' in the middle of the triangle. Then write "God the ____" at each point of the triangle.

Then, as a class, have campers come up with a definition of faith and write it on the white board (Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see." When we have faith in Jesus we believe in who He is and what He has done for us. We have faith that He is real and that He brings us new life.) Let the campers talk through this before you help them settle on the correct definition.

To help show what faith is, try this exercise. Set one chair in the middle of the room and ask for a

volunteer. Let the camper see the chair and sit in it. Ask the campers, **“Did that take any faith for this camper to sit in the chair?”** (No, he/she could see and feel the chair before sitting.) Now remove the chair, blindfold the camper, ask the camper to face forward and sit down (Slowly.) Return the chair as the camper sits. **Did that take faith for him/her to sit?** (Yes, he/she could not see the chair, had to trust you, etc.)



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:

Trinity characteristics verse references guide (3 per bin)

Worksheet – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Characteristics side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a worksheet. Then divide the campers into three groups and explain that they'll work together as “investigators” or “detectives.” Assign one group to be “God the Father Characteristics,” one to be “God the Son Characteristics,” and the last to be “God the Holy Spirit Characteristics.” Next, hand a verse reference guide to each group. 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:

Worksheet – blank side (1 per camper)

Crayons or markers

Explain that as you read through Scripture (in the Tie It Together below), they will draw a picture to show what God created each day. Remind them that there were 6 days of creation, so they need to leave room for 6 pictures. Pause after each day 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.

Tie It Together



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 1:1-5

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 created 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.

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 and it was created. God said, "Let there be

light,” and there was light. All God did was speak to create everything, 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? (Allow responses.) God wants 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? (Allow responses.)

Creative Creations



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

Supplies:

Construction paper (2 pieces per session)
Pipe cleaners (10 per session)
Cotton balls (10 per session)
Sock (4 per bin)
Pictures of famous works of art (1 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.

(Teachers – throw away your used paper, pipe cleaners, and cotton balls and/or display your class’s work of art, but save the other materials for the next class/storage.)

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. But 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.

Let’s continue to read the bible.

Hebrews 11:3

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!

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Praise God for being a powerful God who created the world we live in. Thank Him for allowing us to be a part of His story.



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