

Year C
Early Summer
Pentecost through Proper 10

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

Trinity Sunday
John 16: 12-15

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

In three succinct sentences, Jesus continues to prepare the disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth. God who is and was has sent Jesus who is and was. Now the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, comes to be with the disciples and to be with us. We have God in three persons — a community. This community is so huge it has room for each of us to enter into this Kingdom of God.

Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Theme: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit: Abundant Love.

Before: Sidewalk chalk is suggested for this session. Obviously, if you choose to do this activity you will have to have permission beforehand! And you will need a back-up plan in case it rains (a large paper tarp like the kind found in some paint stores, or large pieces of newsprint). If you cannot find sidewalk chalk, colored chalk is usually available wherever craft materials are sold, including some grocery stores. Disposable wipes or paper towels and some water will be needed at the end of the creating.

The concept of three can be reinforced by bringing from home a batch of bowls, baskets, or boxes with things that come in three. These could be an apple, an orange and a banana; paper, crayons and scissors; Bible, Prayer Book, Hymnal — whatever strikes your imagination and is readily at hand. Set these threes where the children can explore them.

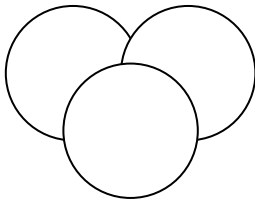
You may also choose to write in big letters the words suggested in the Activity as well as draw the three circles and the triangle and place them all where everyone can see, either inside or outside, depending on where you do the activity. Or write and draw on individual pieces of paper the children can take with them, either outside or inside.

Beginning: Invite the children to look at the display you have created. What is alike about each of the displays? What else comes in threes? (Bread – Peanut butter – Jelly? A glass – a soda – a straw?) Tell the children that we think of God in threes also: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

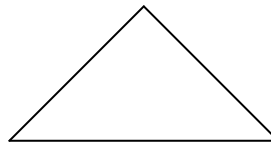
Praying: Hold hands forming a circle and tell the children that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are right here in our circle with us. “Good Morning God, the Father; Good Morning, God the Son; Good Morning, God the Holy Spirit. Thank you for being with us today. Amen.”

The Story: Jesus is getting ready to go back to be with God the Father. And he is talking to his friends, telling them the Holy Spirit is coming to be with them while he is away. Jesus tells them the Holy Spirit will help them do hard things. The Holy Spirit will help them figure things out. The Holy Spirit will teach them things they still need to learn. The Holy Spirit will help them remember what Jesus taught them.

Activity: Tell the children we have no photos of God, nor of Jesus, nor of the Holy Spirit. So we have ways to draw the idea of God being together with Jesus and together with Holy Spirit.



Or



We have words we can use: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. And we have words like Holy, Holy, Holy.

If you can go outside with sidewalk chalk, tell the children that the people in church today will be hearing about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, so they will be happy to find our drawings waiting for them on the sidewalk.

If you have a rainy day, perhaps the children could place their drawings on the floor in the hall where people gather after church.

Getting Closure: Provide the opportunity for children to remove the chalk from their hands. Teach the children the Eucharistic response:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth
Are full of your glory.

Closing Prayer: “Thank you God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, that you work together teaching us how to be together with you. Amen.”