

If You Do Explore Trinity with the Children...



▲ **Introduce the trinity.** Most children know “God and Jesus,” but fewer hear much about the Holy Spirit – unless they heard the word during Pentecost celebrations last week. So the task is to add the Holy Spirit and to tie all three together. One way to begin is with Trinity images. Point to those in your worship space. Identify the three separate parts that are bound together, e.g. each circle of the intertwined circles. Name the three persons of the Trinity and briefly mention things we know about each one. Early in the service challenge worshipers to be alert for “father, son, and holy spirit” in your songs, prayers, and stories today. Even fill your pockets with wrapped candies for anyone who can tell you as they leave the number of those references in today’s worship.



God is like...

▲ **Warning:** Lots of images of the Trinity feature three things that together make one thing, e.g. clover of 3 leaves, egg (yoke, white, shell), apple (either tree, food, seed or peel, core, flesh), even Neapolitan ice cream (chocolate, vanilla, strawberry). Grasping these images requires **the ability to transfer qualities of one thing to something unlike it** – which is easier for adults than for children. Children have an easier time

exploring different names of a single person, e.g. a person who is Granny, Mama and Darling (wife). The transfer is easier because children are asked to relate qualities of people rather than qualities of inanimate objects to the qualities of God who is more like a person than like an inanimate object. One way to do this is to identify all of your names, including your full name and your nicknames. You may want to identify times when you are called by different names and note that no matter which name is used, you are still you. Also hear the full names of several worshipers and make similar comments. Then ask if anyone knows God's full name. From there discuss the three names for the Trinity.