

Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 24: June 12-18, 2022

Celebrate Trinity Sunday

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We
CELEBRATE GOD!



**“They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”**

Dr. Patrick Wilson

(Psalm 145:7)

2022



Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Trinity Sunday. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- Why was Jesus baptized?
- How was the Trinity present at Jesus' baptism?
- Why do you think we are baptized in the "name" of the Trinity?
- How has God chosen you? How do we choose God?
- Why is the Spirit necessary for obedience to Jesus?
- How does it comfort you to know that God is with you?
- Are you content to live in the mystery of God, which is beyond our full comprehension? Why or why not?

Craft: Trinity Bracelet

1. Color about 1/2 inch across the outer edge of two adjacent sides of the napkin or square piece of paper.
2. With the color side up, fold the uncolored corner up to but not covering the colored point at the top (making a triangle with a bottom edge).
3. Turn the napkin over and begin folding or rolling in 1/2 inch increments so that the color begins to show like a candy cane.
4. Tape or glue the two edges together to the right size.
5. If you wish, write "Father," "Son," and "Spirit" at different segments in the bracelet.

Supplies:

- Napkin or Square Paper
- Marker
- Pen (optional)
- Tape or Glue



Foods to Prepare

Use food this week as a way to remind and reinforce who God is and how he relates to us. Here are some examples from Martianne Stranger with Training Happy Hearts:

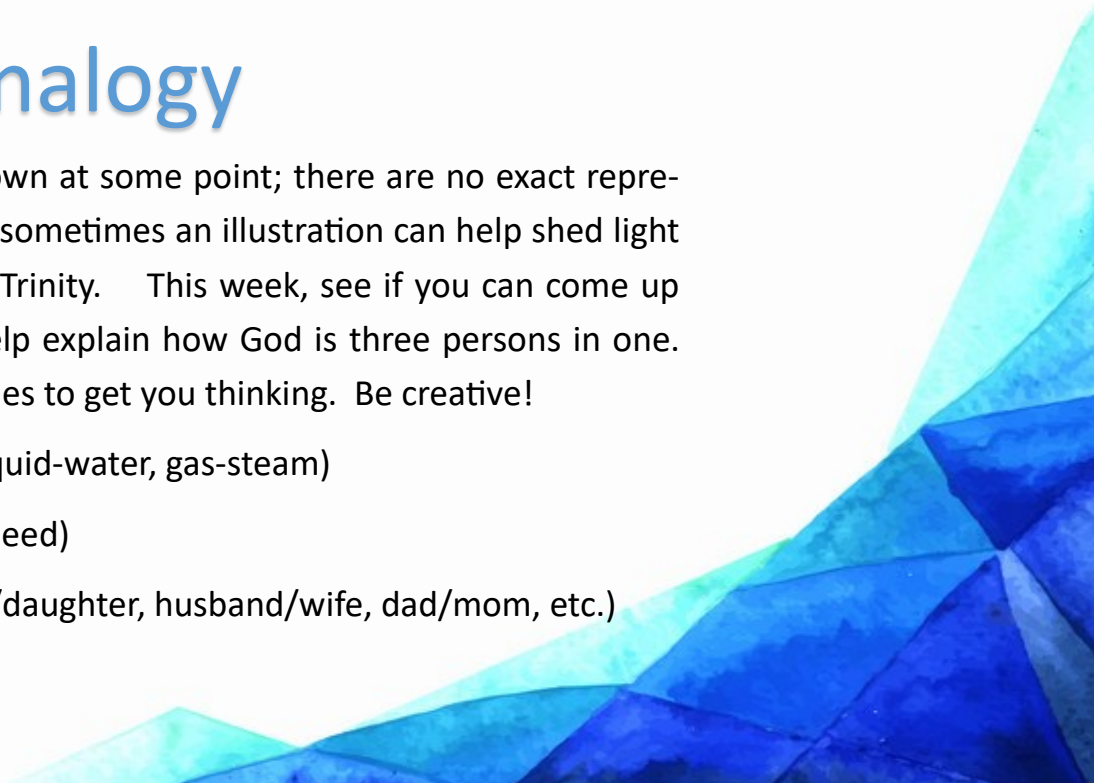
- Set the table with a white table cloth (purity).
- Set three candles (Trinity, light of God).
- Berries (Fruit of the Spirit: i.e., strawberries cut in half look somewhat like hearts that remind us of the supreme attribute of love)
- Tortillas (circular and remind us of God's eternal love)
- Honey (sweetness to remind us God's creation and the joy of a relationship with him)

You also might see how many dishes you can make with three ingredients. It could be something as simple as a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. If you want to try something a little more creative, check out one of these 20 recipes from BuzzFeed. Each recipe only calls for three ingredients. See if the family can guess the three ingredients as you eat it together.

https://www.buzzfeed.com/lindsayhunt/one-two-three-dessert?utm_term=.vak4JBJ3DB#.qf3o0R0eaR

Trinity Analogy

All analogies break down at some point; there are no exact representations. However, sometimes an illustration can help shed light on a mystery like the Trinity. This week, see if you can come up with an analogy to help explain how God is three persons in one. Here are a few examples to get you thinking. Be creative!

- Water (solid-ice, liquid-water, gas-steam)
 - Apple (skin, flesh, seed)
 - Man/Woman (son/daughter, husband/wife, dad/mom, etc.)
 - Three Leaf Clover
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Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. These movies focus describe God/angels. Watch one and discuss as a family how God is described in the movie, and whether you agree with these depictions or not. If you'd rather, just pick another great movie to watch together. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

It's a Mystery!

The concept of God being three persons but one God is a mystery because we do not have experience with such a being other than God. Mysteries are hard to understand and sometimes quite a challenge to figure out.

Spend some time doing mysterious things this week.

Here are a few examples you can consider:

- Read a mystery book.
- Watch a mystery movie.
- Play a mystery board game (i.e., Clue).
- Put an object in a box, have people ask questions, and see who can guess what is in the box.
- Go on a scavenger hunt in the house.

God/Angels Movies:

- The Shack
- Bruce Almighty
- Evan Almighty
- Oh, God! I & II
- Oh, God! You Devil
- Dogma
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Defending Your Life
- Michael
- What Dreams May Come
- Phenomenon
- Meet Joe Black
- Ghost
- Five People You Meet in Heaven
- Conversations with God



Bible Study

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4:4-6).

Notice how many times Paul uses the word “one” in these three short verses. Paul is emphasizing the oneness or unity of God and of us as his people. Paul speaks of all committed followers of Jesus as one, unified body. Just as the various cells, organs, and systems in the human body must work together in a healthy way, so we must collaborate and unite together as God’s people.

God calls us to “put all of our eggs in one basket.” He is that basket. God is our one hope; he is the one we put all of our faith in; our baptism is in him alone. We live in the power of the Spirit of Jesus, who we claim as our Lord, and who came to us from the Father. All three persons of the Trinity are referenced in these verses that center on being unified as one. While this is extremely mysterious and beyond our minds to fully comprehend, we rest in the fact that God is “over all and through all and in all” (v. 6).

Do you see God in everything that is going on in your life right now? Each of us face some daunting circumstances (some much more painful and challenging than others), yet God is with us and in the midst of these difficulties. He is working in us and in the situations around us to bring us closer to him, unite us with others, and to bring others closer to Jesus. So, this week, watch for the one God. He is with you always!

Prayer Time: Triune Prayer

Oftentimes when we pray, we pray to God, the Father. However, it is valuable to pray intentionally to Jesus, the Son, and to his Holy Spirit, too. This week, write out a prayer in a notebook or journal. Be sure to include in your prayer specific references to each person in the Trinity.

If you want an example, consider this prayer from catholic.org:

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=784>



Service: Equality

One of the important aspects of the Trinity is the equality of Father, Son, and Spirit. There is no hierarchy in the personhood of God. They are one and fully united as equals. This equality is God's design for his people and his kingdom. However, we live in a world full of inequality. As followers of Jesus, we are here to join with God in advancing a kingdom built on the value of every human being. This week, consider how you can help those who experience a less-privileged life. Here are some examples:

- Read about a group that experience inequality and share what you learn.
- Give of your time to becoming involved in an organization that is working toward equality.
- Financially contribute through organizations that are working towards equal opportunities for all people.
- Spend time getting to know someone who is experiencing inequality. Ask him/her to share his/her story. Listen and empathize with his/her experiences. Thank them.
- Encourage others to becoming involved and serve in your local community.

Connect: Make it Three

If you are a married couple, it is important for you to have time together—just the two of you. However, for singles, divorcees, widows, and widowers, it can be hard to find time with others. So, this week find a time to reach out to someone who is alone and invite him/her to join with you for coffee, dinner, dessert, or an outing.

If you live alone, get two friends together that may not know each other well. Ask them to be your special guests on an outing. Introduce your friends to each other.

Regardless of how you connect this week, avoid making it about you. Let others talk and share their stories. Listen, validate, and ask open-ended questions. Give them space to be heard and valued. Make “being a third wheel” a good experience for others!

Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs focus on the Trinity. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

Trinity Worship Songs:

- How Great is Our God
- Praise the Father, Praise the Son
- King of Kings
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- This I Believe
- Father, Spirit, Jesus
- The Doxology
- My Testimony
- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Father, I Adore You
- Glorify Thy Name
- Come Now, Almighty King

Challenge: Write a Poem

Consider the mystery of the Trinity and the powerful way God relates to us as his people. Take time to write out your thoughts and feelings about God as he relates to you. Try your hand at poetically expressing your reflections. Oftentimes, poetry can capture the mystical essence of our hearts and minds in ways that prose is insufficient. Be creative. Have fun!

“The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him.” —NT Wright