

PRESCHOOL  
GUIDE  
**6**

# GOD IS THREE IN ONE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY

## BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THREE IN ONE

Psalm 19:7-11; 119:1, 9, 129-130; Proverbs 2:6-7; Joshua 1:7-8

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

## BIG IDEAS

- There is only one God.
- The one true God is three persons.
- Each person is unique and at the same time one God.
- The Father is the one true God, the Son (Jesus) is the one true God, and the Holy Spirit is the one true God.

## BIBLE STORY: MARK 1

The existence of God as three in one is evident throughout all of scripture, but is seen clearly in Mark's description of Jesus' baptism. All three persons of the Trinity were present at the baptism: God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity are all fully God, yet they are three persons.

## FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY

God is our heavenly Father. The Bible teaches that God is three in one. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father, God rules over all things, is greater than all things, and loves sinful people by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. God becomes the Father of those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is the perfect Father who lovingly adopts us into His family through faith in His Son. Because God is Father we can become a part of a new family that will last forever.

## BIG AIMS



### Every child should know that:

- God is three in one
- God is the perfect Father



### Every child should feel:

- Loved by the family at home and church



### Every child should be able to:

- Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus



### Every child should want:

- To trust the perfect Father who loves His children

## FAMILY DEVOTION: THE ONE TRUE GOD IS THREE PERSONS

Though God exists as a Trinity, there is only one God. Three unique persons form the Trinity, but they are not three different Gods. God is one god in three persons and the three persons serve uniquely in their roles.



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**BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14**

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**God is one in essence (or nature), but three in Person.**

- *Essence* is defined as state of being or what you are. It is God's nature or being to be one.
- *Person* is not used as it normally is to mean one individual who stands alone and separate from others. When used to refer to the Trinity, person is defined as something that refers to itself as "I" and others as "You", yet each person of the Trinity is part of one being.
- God is one in being and three in persons.
- God has always existed as one in being and three in persons.
- All three persons of the Trinity are eternal---they have always been and will always be.

**The three persons of God are distinct from one another.**

- They exist as distinct persons, each with a unique purpose.
- All three persons are fully and equally God.
- They are all three equal in being God. No one person of the Trinity is more God than another person of the Trinity.
- All three are equal in power, love, mercy, justice, holiness, knowledge and all other qualities of God.
- The Trinity is not God divided into three parts.

**The Trinity works in unity for God's glory and for our good.**

- Paul closes his letter to the church in Corinth with a reminder that God works as three persons for their good.
- It is from God that we receive grace in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of men.
- The three persons of the Trinity exist separately, yet they are one in essence.
- They all three work in perfect unity to bring God glory and for our good.

**BIBLE STORY: MARK 1***The Baptism Of Jesus*

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:9-11, 1 Timothy 2:5

**Teacher Introduction:**

The Trinity is important because God is important. He is the most important being of all time. When we understand more fully what God is like, we are honoring God. Our desire to understand the Trinity shows our desire to know God, which pleases God. The Trinity is not easily understood, but we can trust that God will reveal through the Holy Spirit the things we need to know about Him. The goal in this lesson isn't to uncover all the hidden truths of the Trinity, but to acquire a solid understanding of the foundation "God is Three in One." Mark begins his book with the start of Jesus' public ministry on earth. He records first the ministry of John the Baptist and then quickly relays the baptism of Jesus. It is at Jesus' baptism that we distinctly see the three persons of the Trinity.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the foundation truth "God is Three in One." The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative of The Baptism of Jesus. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative of The Baptism of Jesus.

**Opening Illustration:**

Teachers' Note: The idea that this illustration is teaching is one item having three distinct or different parts. The emphasis should be on the three distinct parts, not the whole. Cut an apple in half. Show the apple to the preschoolers. Identify the following three parts: the skin, the seeds and the core.

- This is one apple, but it has three different parts. Outside skin, seeds and a core. These three parts have different jobs.
- What job does the skin have? (It protects the apple from bugs and other things.)
- What job does the core have? (It helps the apple grow and take in nutrients.)
- What job do the seeds have? (They help it grow another apple.)
- God is one God, but has three different persons and each person has a unique purpose.

**BIG IDEA: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.**

**There is only one God who is perfect and the most important being in all of history.<sup>1</sup>**

- God is one god.
- God is perfect and unique.
- No other being is like God.

**God is unique in His character and abilities.**

- God is unique in that He is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere), and omnipotent (all powerful).
- No other being has these character traits or abilities.
- He is eternal---He has no beginning and no end.<sup>2</sup>

**The Bible tells us there is only one God.<sup>3</sup>**

- God reveals Himself in the beginning and His oneness is seen throughout all of scripture.

*How is God unique? (He is unique in His character and abilities. No one else has the same abilities that God has.)*



Use crayons to teach the concept of ONE. Use one RED crayon and several other crayons that are all the same color. Show the crayons to the preschoolers. Ask them: What are these? (crayons) Are they all the same? (No, one of them is red.) Tell them: There is only one RED crayon just like there is only one God. There is not more than one God. There is only one, just like there is only one RED crayon.

1. 2 Samuel 7:22, 1 Corinthians 8:4: All of scripture points to the truth that there is only one God and no one is greater than He. There is no one like God and He is greater than all other beings.

2. Isaiah 43:10: God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He has always been and will always be.

3. 2 Chronicles 17:20, John 10:30, Ephesians 4:4-6: God is the only God and there are no others like Him. He declared Himself in the beginning and continues to reveal Himself to His creation. He is eternal and all-powerful.

**BIG IDEA: THE ONE, TRUE GOD IS THREE PERSONS.<sup>4</sup>****Mark records the start of Jesus' public ministry in the opening of his book.**

- Jesus' public ministry began with His submission to the Father in baptism.<sup>5</sup>
- Jesus' baptism reveals Him as God's Son and one part of the Trinity.
- Jesus was fully God and fully man and His baptism reveals His place in the Godhead or Trinity.

**God as three persons is clearly seen at Jesus' baptism.**

- The three persons of the Trinity are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- These three persons are all seen at the baptism of Jesus.
- Jesus, the Son is present on earth, having taken on the form of a man that He might be the Savior of the world.<sup>6</sup>
- Jesus is seen as the Son when the Father speaks from heaven calling Jesus His "beloved Son."

**The Father's voice is distinctly heard at the baptism.<sup>7</sup>**

- When Jesus came up out of the Jordan River, a voice from heaven was heard.
- This voice is the voice of the Father.
- The Father is distinct from the Son and the Spirit.
- At the baptism we see the Father as distinct from the Son because Jesus is in the water and the Father is in heaven and the Holy Spirit is descending from heaven.
- The Father/Son relationship is evident at the baptism also when the Father expresses pleasure in His Son's obedience.

**The Holy Spirit is distinctly seen at the baptism.**

- When Jesus comes out of the water, we see the Holy Spirit descend upon Him in the form of a dove.<sup>8</sup>
- The presence of the Holy Spirit reveals the third person of the Trinity.

*How are the three persons seen at the Jesus' baptism? (As the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.)*

4. Mark 1:9-11: The three persons of God or the Trinity are present at the baptism of Jesus. It is seen distinctly in its three persons, God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.

5. Mark 1:9: Jesus was baptized not because He was sinful, but because He was identifying with the sinfulness of humanity. He showed His submission to the Father's will for His life by being baptized.

6. Mark 1:1, 15:39: Mark describes Jesus as the Son of God at the beginning and end of his gospel. Jesus is the Son of God and He is fully God.

7. Mark 1:10-11, 1 Timothy 2:5: The Father is one of the three persons of the Trinity. He is seen as distinct from the Son and the Spirit. The Son mediates or intercedes for us to the Father. We see evidence of the three persons by the idea that they converse with one another.

8. Matthew 3:16, Luke 3:22: The Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus in some tangible form shows evidence of the Trinity. He descended from heaven when it opened and rested upon the Son, Jesus.

# FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY

## GOD IS THREE IN ONE

### BIG IDEA: EACH PERSON IS UNIQUE AND AT THE SAME TIME ONE GOD.<sup>9</sup>

#### God exists as three persons.

- The three persons of the Trinity are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The three are unique persons.
- They work together to meet the needs of God's people.

#### The three persons are not three separate Gods.

- They are one God who acts as three unique persons.
- These three persons serve in different roles as one God, orchestrating the world and His people.<sup>10</sup>

#### The three persons are unique in their roles in the lives of humanity.

- The Father serves as the head of the Trinity and the giver of life.
- The Son serves as the Savior of the world and the mediator for mankind to the Father.
- The Holy Spirit serves as the helper to all those who believe in the Son for salvation.<sup>11</sup>



Help the preschoolers memorize 2 Corinthians 13:14 by playing Musical Chairs. The person who is without a chair should say the verse out loud.

9. Matthew 28:19, John 17:22: The Trinity is made up of three unique persons, but they are all three together one God. Scripture teaches that there is one God who is made up of three persons—three individuals who refer to themselves as “I” and to others as “you”. God references Himself as “we” on many occasions throughout scripture.

10. 2 Corinthians 13:14, Genesis 1:26, I John 5:7-8: The three persons of the Trinity work as One, yet they serve in three distinct roles. Each has a purpose that works together for God's glory and man's good.

11. John 14:16: The Holy Spirit is referenced as a helper to man when Jesus states He will ask the Father to send the Spirit to be the helper.

**BIG IDEA: THE FATHER IS THE ONE TRUE GOD, THE SON (JESUS) IS THE ONE TRUE GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.****All three persons of the Trinity are all fully God.**

- Each unique person of the Trinity is fully God.
- Each has the same power, presence and divinity as the others.<sup>12</sup>
- No one person of the Trinity is inferior, or less than another.

**The existence of the three persons of the Trinity does not divide God.<sup>13</sup>**

- Each person of the Trinity is not one-third God.
- They are all three fully God and together form the essence or being of God.
- Each is as important and as divine individually as they are together.
- Each serves a unique purpose and role in the world.

**One God in three persons is present at the baptism of Jesus.**

- The Trinity, working together as one God, is evident at the baptism of Jesus.<sup>14</sup>
- Jesus, acting in obedience to the Father by taking on human form, is seen beginning His earthly ministry through baptism.
- The Holy Spirit is seen fulfilling its role as Helper by descending upon the Son at the start of the Son's earthly ministry.
- The Father is seen fulfilling His role as head and Father by identifying Jesus as His Son.

12. Colossians 2:9: All the fullness of deity dwells in each person of the Trinity.

13. Genesis 1:26, I John 5:7-8: Each person of the Trinity is fully God. This is evidenced at the creation of the world and in the New Testament as they are seen working together, each fully as God.

14. Matthew 28:19: The Trinity is seen throughout scripture as working together for God's glory. In the Great Commission, given to the church as a means of taking the Gospel to the entire world, the Trinity is seen as working together to accomplish the reconciliation of man to God.

## HOOKS



KNOW

**There is Only One God**

(Help the preschooler develop a sense of God's oneness by singing "Holy, Holy, Holy" with them.)

- Are there other gods beside the one true God? (No, there are no other gods besides the one true God.)
- How do we know there is only one God? (The Bible tells us there is only one God.)



DO

**God is Three in One**

(Help the preschoolers understand the truth of God as three persons by building a triangle with them. The triangle is made up of three equal lines. The line is God. Each of the three lines is separately God and together God. You can use popsicle sticks to make a triangle. Give each preschooler three popsicle sticks that have "Father" on one of them, "Son" on one of them, and "Holy Spirit" on one of them. As they put the sticks together they are forming the Trinity.)



FEEL



WANT

- How many Gods are there? (There is only one God.)
- How many persons make up God? (Three persons make up God.)
- Each person is fully God, just like each line in your triangle is fully God and together the three make up the Trinity.

**Each Person is Unique**

Show the preschoolers three writing utensils: a pencil, a pen, and a marker.

- What are these three things? (Things you write with. A pencil, a pen and marker.)
- Are they all the same? (No, they are different. Talk about their differences and how you use each one for different reasons, but they all three are used to write.)
- Each person of the Trinity is unique. They are each God, but they have different purposes and they are different.