

Children's Ministry: TRINITY

Materials needed:

Paper

Crayons (multiple colors of blue for each child, if possible)

Blue Play Doh

TRINITY circles

The Urantia Book

Active Learning is a technique of teaching children whereby they are engaged with each other and the teacher. Active Learning is NOT lecture!

[Please remember: If you have an older child or a young teen who can lead out in ANY of these elements it is always best to allow this. In Eden we see that this is the way that children are taught leadership. Help them along in this!]

"Religious meanings progress in self-consciousness when the child transfers his ideas of omnipotence from his parents to God. And the entire religious experience of such a child is largely dependent on whether fear or love has dominated the parent-child relationship." 92:7.11

The children of Adam, except for four years' attendance at the western schools, lived and worked in the "east of Eden." They were trained intellectually until they were sixteen in accordance with the methods of the Jerusalem schools. From sixteen to twenty they were taught in the Urantia schools at the other end of the Garden, serving there also as teachers in the lower grades. 74:7.1

TRINITY circles!

The Ice Breaker games help to warm up the room quickly with laughter and help in getting to know each other.

Ice Breaker game: Buffoon

As the name implies, someone is going to be a buffoon – a ridiculous, but amusing person or clown. Have the kids sit in a circle and ask a volunteer to be in the center. The goal of the Buffoon is to get the other kids to laugh by making sad, annoyed, gloomy, or silly faces. The first person to do so becomes the next Buffoon. This continues until all have had at least one turn.

Calm the kids down and have them sit in a circle if you have the room.

My Story: Leader's own testimony of how they found Jesus or discovered God. (under 5 minutes).

Now move into a time of asking the children a few questions:

Leader questions:

What shape is the sun?

What shape is the Earth?

What shape is the Moon?

What shape is this? (Hold up the TRINITY circles)

Leader statement:

We have a book that tells us a lot about God. (Hold up the book) In this book we are taught some things about God. We know that He is big...powerful...loving...creates things and He has many different kinds of Sons and Daughters. You and I are sons and daughters of God. He loves us! He likes the shape of circles, doesn't He?

(Hold up the TRINITY) This is a representation of what God looks like as He lives in Paradise. God is ONE yet He is also THREE. All three parts move independently yet are still ONE. The word Trinity means 'three in one'. The center circle is God the Father. The next inner circles is God the Son. And the outer circle is God the Spirit. They all do different things yet they all came from God the Father.

Our Paradise Father (God) is the Father of all things. Because of His love He wanted to share His life with others. Long, long ago God decided to create His Eternal Son (the second circle). And this Eternal Son is where our Jesus comes from. And then God decided to create the Holy Spirit (the 3rd circle) and this is where our Mother Spirit and Her angels come from. God, our Paradise Father, does certain things. The Eternal Son works and does certain things, like what Jesus does for us. And the Holy Spirit with Her angels do different things for us. They watch over us and guide our steps as we live our lives. All of these unseen friends love you and me. And we may choose to love them right back.

(This little talk may start some questions from the children. Take time to answer them. This is really the best part of the entire lesson. So ~ give a lot of attention to their questions. Then ask them even more questions to engage their thinking and conversation with you and the other children.)

Leader question:

What is your favorite color? (Ask each child and then ask ‘why’.)
What color is this TRINITY?

Pass the TRINITY around to each child to let them hold it, spin it and see the individual rings. (take time with this)

Leader question: What do you like about TRINITY? (Let them each explain what they like as they each take a turn holding/spinning it.)

Passage: (Go slow. Don’t think that they won’t understand some part of this passage. Emphasize the last line. Again ~ GO SLOW) ^{1:1.4} Near the center of the universe of universes, the Universal Father is generally known by names which may be regarded as meaning the First Source. Farther out in the universes of space, the terms employed to designate the Universal Father more often mean the Universal Center. Still farther out in the starry creation, he is known, as on the headquarters world of your local universe, as the First Creative Source and Divine Center. In one near-by constellation God is called the Father of Universes. In another, the Infinite Upholder, and to the east, the Divine Controller. He has also been designated the Father of Lights, the Gift of Life, **and the All-powerful One.**

Ask the children to draw the TRINITY circles (each circle with a different color blue) with crayons and paper. (younger children will need help with this)

Ask each child to explain something different about the TRINITY.

The shape
The meaning
The movement
The color

Ask each child to express why they think God the TRINITY moves in different ways.

Now, tell each one of them what you like about *them*. Then tell them that it is God who has shown you this (which is very true).

Leader: Tell the children that God loves all of the different things about each one of them. God is interested in them personally.

Ice Breaker game:

Flag of Me

A fun but “quiet” ice-breaking activity for a group of older children, this takes some time, but is a great way to settle down a large group. Finished flags make a fabulous display for a classroom or meeting place, and provide a fun “party favor” for kids to take home.

Give each child a piece of white paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Tell them to design a flag that tells something about them. It is a good idea to suggest the following possibilities if children are slow to start:

- What their interests are
- Where they come from
- What they believe in
- Favorite colors, animals, or sports
- Their families or pets
- Places they have visited or want to visit

After the children take 15-20 minutes to create their flags, ask them to stand up, one by one, hold up their flags, and explain the design to the other children.

If time is left over open up the blue Play Doh molding clay and have each child create their own TRINITY circles. (This probably should not be taken home as one bucket of this clay is 11\$. However, we have included a recipe for making your own clay with flour and blue food coloring.)

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