



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus comes out of the water, the Gospel gives us a family picture of the Holy Trinity. The heavens open, a voice proclaims Jesus as God's beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit—in the form of a dove—hovers over Jesus. This is a sign of Jesus being chosen (anointed). God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit are the Holy Trinity. They are united in love. Connect the Gospel to your family life by sharing photos and memories of your child's Baptism.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your family. Help us follow you and share your love with others. Amen."
- Activity • Remember Your Baptism** Share the story of your child's baptism. Share the date, pictures and mementos, who your child's godparents are, and all who celebrated with you. Talk about the name you gave your child and why you chose it. Feel free to share photos from your baptism, too, if you have them.
- Cover Activity • We Belong to God's Family (page 1)** Have your child describe the cover photos and identify the occasions on which they were taken. *A Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.* Read aloud the paragraphs and questions on page 1.

Point out that the white spaces under the photos are for your child to write in the dates when your family celebrated these sacraments. Help your child fill in these dates.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is God's Beloved Son (page 4)** Remind your child who John the Baptist is. Then **ask:** What did John tell the people who asked him if he was the Messiah? *No. I have come to tell people to make the path straight for the one God is sending (the Messiah, our Savior, Jesus). I am not good enough to undo his sandal strap.* Proclaim the Gospel by dividing up the parts between you.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** **Answers:** 1. God the Father. 2. The Holy Spirit (appears in Gospel as a dove) will help Jesus do his work of gathering followers, teaching, healing—and eventually suffering, dying, and rising from the dead to save us.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "God Is the Holy Trinity." Help your child name the Three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. Invite your child to look at the photo of a shamrock. Explain that Saint Patrick used a three-leaf clover like this to teach the people of Ireland about the Holy Trinity.
- Catholic Faith Word • Holy Trinity (page 2)** Read the definition of *Holy Trinity* together. Assure your child that even the smartest grownups can't understand how One God can be Three Divine Persons. We call it a *mystery* of our faith. God has revealed this to us in the Bible, so we believe it's true even though we can't understand it.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 21. **Ask:** What were the priest or deacon's words at your Baptism? Help by saying, "I baptize you in the name of . . ." **Ask:** What prayers can you think of that sound like that? *Sign of the Cross*, *Glory Be to the Father*. Emphasize that we are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. Have your child read the paragraph under the Baptism heading. **Ask:** How many times can a person be baptized? *One*. **Ask:** Why do you think that is? *We need to be baptized only once because Baptism makes us members of God's family forever.*

Optionally, you can have your child draw an impression of the Holy Trinity. Have your child print the words: *The Holy Trinity* across the top of a sheet of paper. Then invite your child to draw a way to think about the Trinity. Your child might choose to draw traditional images of the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (dove, flame, wind, or water). You might remind your child about Saint Patrick's three-leaf clover. Other ideas are water, ice, and steam; an egg (shell, yolk, white); an equilateral triangle, or the equation $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$.

Have your child find page 46 in the handbook and look at The Apostles' Creed. Have your child underline "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth," "In Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord," and "I believe in the Holy Spirit." Note how much of the Creed is about the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Direct attention to the words of the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be to the Father on the same page. Note that they are prayers to the Holy Trinity too.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, pages 2-3.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • The Church Welcomes Us (pages 2-3)** Read aloud the activity title and point out the blue path. Explain that this path will lead us through the main parts of a Baptism. Read through the activity together, explaining as you move along. Give your child time to complete the activity—coloring, filling in words, and tracing as indicated.
- **Closing Prayer** Have your child open *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to page 46 for the words of the Glory Be to the Father. **Pray:** "We thank you, Loving God, for making us members of your family. We praise you as the Holy Trinity." Pray the Glory Be to the Father, and end with the Sign of the Cross.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture