

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

Essential Question

What does Jesus Christ teach you about God?

Learning Targets

The new archdiocesan curriculum is designed in such a way that the learning information follows a spiral pattern in that similar topics are discussed at a progressively deeper cognitive level each year following the appropriate age of the learner, beginning with early childhood and concluding with adulthood. Below is a chart that shows this progression for our 2nd topic / essential question "What does Jesus Christ teach you about God?" Please review this to see what your child(ren) are covering at their own cognitive level.

Additionally, you will notice that each grade level is covering the same or similar topic each week. This chart can also be used as a tool for conversation starters about what was learned in formation, other family discussions, and as a means to unite the family under one theme. Our hope is that this information will help you be more aware of what your child(ren) are covering and that it can be integrated or reinforced at home in some fashion and may even inspire your own faith life as well.

Early Childhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A3.1.2.1 – God made all things. (CCC#295-97; 315; 317)• K.1.2.1 – All of creation is a gift from God. (CCC#299; 315) [Also in Unit #3/Circle of Grace]• A4.1.2.3 – God loves all creation. (CCC#301; 315)• K.1.4.2 (& A4.1.4.2) – God wants all people to care for his creation. (CCC#2415-2416; 2456)
Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (U₂) 1.1.2.1 – All creation shows God's love. (CCC#288; 293; 315; 319)• (U₃) 2.1.3.1 - God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC#234; 261; 267)• (U₄) 3.1.3.3 – The Holy Spirit is the Gift of the Father and the Son. (CCC#638; 658; 988-90)• (U₄) 5.1.3.2 – The one true God is a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This great mystery was revealed by Jesus Christ in his words, ministry, and Paschal Mystery. (CCC#228; 234; 240; 261; 267)
Junior High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.1.3.1 - The one God is a Trinity of three Divine Persons in one substance, in which the Son is eternally begotten of the Father and the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. (CCC #228; 234; 240; 254; 261; 267)• 7.2.1.2 - God freely created the universe out of nothing and keeps it in existence by His Word, the Son, and by His Creator Spirit, the giver of life. (CCC #290-91; 301; 320)• 7.3.1.3 - The foundation of the Church is the Trinity; the unity of the Church reflects the unity of the Trinity. (CCC #234; 267; 759; 763; 767; 778; 813; 866)• 8.1.2.1 - God has chosen to communicate with humanity about the very nature of God. This is called Revelation. (CCC #50; 53; 68-69; 287-88; 319)
High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.1.2.2 - God reveals himself and his plan of salvation through natural Revelation and Divine Revelation.• 9.1.2.3 - Human reason, personal experience, and scientific observation point to a God who made a world full of beauty and awe, and who keeps everything in existence• 10.1.3.2 - The divine plan of salvation is the work of the Trinity. The Father gives the Son by the action of the Holy Spirit in Mary.• 11.1.2.1 - The Seven Sacraments are prefigured in the Old Testament accounts and based in the events of the New Testament
Adult
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MA 3.1.7 - Jesus models, commands, and empowers his disciples to follow his Way of Love.

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

- MA 1.2.5 - Persons can perceive God's creative handiwork revealed within the beauty, sense of order, and complexity of natural systems at work in the earth and universe.
- MA 1.3.2 - The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity: one God exists as a Trinity of persons existing in perfect and eternal communion with one another. This is the central mystery of the Christian faith and is known only because of God's self-revelation as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- MA 4.2.12 - The Scriptures are the living Word of God which speaks to Christians, who are called to read, reflect, meditate and pray the Scriptures.

Learning Target Videos

A quick and easy way to wrap up integration of the Parent Connection (PC) at home, as well as relay the learning target of this session's Essential Question (EQ) to your child(ren), is through the use of the videos that have been chosen by the Archdiocese to convey an overarching theme of the EQ at hand. All videos are family friendly and are chosen with the intent to clarify EQ content in an engaging way.

Video One: Grades k-2, *What is the Trinity? What's in the Bible?* <https://youtu.be/n-1AdUwbWLw>

Video Two: Grades 2-4, *3 Minute Catechism - What is the Trinity?* <https://youtu.be/cqOt3lUH8YE>

Video Three: Grades 3-8, *The Prince of Egypt - The Burning Bush Scene* <https://youtu.be/XYW-lmfk2Y>

Video Four: Grades 9-12, Bishop Barron - *What is the Trinity?* <https://youtu.be/hMI4rA4cuiM>

Parent Formation Opportunities

The additional resources that are listed below are intended for your own personal growth, because they offer theological insight that circle back to the essential question through a more mature and personal approach. They offer spiritual guidance for prayer, day to day living, and apologetics. Although these resources are optional, they are strongly encouraged to be considered. Looking over these resources should take no longer than a few minutes and can all be found online.

Scripture: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#), [John 6:22-59](#), [Acts 2:1-13](#)

CCC: [253-255](#), [291](#), [1104](#)

Youtube:

- *What is the Trinity?*
Channel: Bishop Robert Barron
Publication: April 6, 2009
<https://youtu.be/hMI4rA4cuiM>

Podcast:

- *Bishop Barron on the Meaning of the Trinity*
Channel: Bishop Robert Barron
Publication: June 22, 2017
<https://youtu.be/5l-Lv9tGQwI>

Book:

- *On the Trinity: De Trinitate*
Author: St. Augustine of Hippo
Sections: All
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (August 20, 2012)

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

- *The Primary End of Marriage*
Author: Anthony Rizzi
Sections: *Found below*

One of the ways the Trinity can be best understood is by looking at the dynamic of a family. Prior to this activity, please read the following.

In his excerpt, *The Primary End of Marriage*, Anthony Rizzi states that people can most greatly understand the Trinity, and thus the love found within a family — through marriage and procreation — by looking at the inner life of God. He states:

God created marriage for the purpose of procreation and procreation was to be in analogy with His own inner life. That is, God created man in His image. He in His desire to share His goodness crafted such a splendid nature for that image of Himself which is us that according to His design it would include an echo of His own nature; man would be given the power to procreate. He would be made two **so that** a third could come forth. He would be made male and female so that **by** their profound love a child would be conceived under God's loving Providence. God thereby would create a triangle of triangles resounding echoes of His awesome nature. He being Trinitarian would create man with an analogical trinitarian nature. The Christian knows that God is Trinity, that man, woman and child are an analogous trinity, and he knows that though *the world says it takes two* to make a child *the Christian knows it takes three*.

Marriage, then, exists so that man may procreate and in this way have a unique expression of love- a love so deep it "generates" another thereby multiplying opportunity for love. In this fashion, man shares by analogy in God's inner nature. Like the Father, the human father must watch over, guide and educate his children. But, before, in time, this he must love his wife as his own body, just as before creating us the Father loved the Son. One could go on, but it is clear that procreation properly understood demands unity of love of the husband and wife and more.

To read the entire article, please visit: <https://maritain.nd.edu/jmc/ti01/rizzi.htm>

Family Activities

Conversation Starters

Sharing the faith as a family is a great way for it to stick/grow. Here are some conversation ideas based on what your son/daughter was recently learning in formation. Consider using these immediately after picking up your child(ren) from Catechesis or at the dinner table.

- What are three new things you learned during catechesis class today?
- What is something you learned that you already knew?

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

- Do you think you might have learned something that I don't know or you think is important for me to know? If so, what?
- What is the Trinity? Can you tell me the three persons in the Trinity?
- How was the Holy Spirit present in Jesus' life?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit is present in your life? *Consider referencing your child's baptism and how it was at that moment the Holy Spirit came upon your child and brought new life in the way it came upon Jesus when He Himself was baptized.*
- When you pray, is there a specific person in the Trinity you think of? Why do you think that is?
- In learning about the Trinity, what do you think you can learn about yourself?
- Note how every time you pray the Sign of the Cross or begin every prayer by reciting it, you are acknowledging and praising the Trinity.
- *If you have not already, introduce your child to the Glory Be. Emphasize what that prayer seeks to convey or do.*
- Do you have any questions about what you learned today?

Prayer Activity

With your family, pray a Rosary under the guidance of the Glorious Mysteries. Within each decade, make sure to reflect on the given mystery and how it gives insight into the life of the Trinity, as well as how it is through Jesus that God makes Himself most known.

Resources available for use that give aid to deeper and more structured reflection on the Rosary, as well as the Glorious Mysteries include:

- App: *Laudate*
Open app → Rosary and Chaplet → Pray interactive Rosary → Mysteries (located on the top right corner) → Glorious Mysteries
- <https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/glorious-without-distractions/>

Physical Activity

Create your own icon. With your child(ren), study the attached icon at the end of the program before moving into the craft aspect of the activity. Study of the icon will provide guidance for the activity. This Byzantine icon, known as artist Andrei Rublev's *Trinity*, is a famous depiction of the life of the Trinity and how we should approach our understanding of God. Based off of the excerpt by Rizzi, here are a few key concepts about the icon to consider discussing:

- Identify the three different Persons of the Trinity shown on the icon.
 - The Father is on the left, the Son is in the middle, and the Holy Spirit is on the right. Notice how this depiction goes in the same order as the Sign of the Cross.
- Notice how the Father and the Son are gazing at each other while the Spirit is motioned towards them both. This is significant, because it is through the love shared between the Father and the Son that the Spirit comes forth.

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

- Notice how the Father, although looking at the Son, has His right hand extended out, in the form of a blessing, toward the Spirit. Meanwhile, the Son has His hand extended out, in the form of a blessing over the cup. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and salvation is attained through the Son, Christ, in the offering of His body and blood.
- Notice the difference in colors of the robes worn by the three Persons. The Father appears to be wearing a white or translucent robe. The Son is wrapped in red and blue. The Holy Spirit is wrapped in blue and green. The Father's colors point to God's transcendence, the Son's colors point to both His natures as fully human and fully divine, and the Spirit's colors point to His role in the coming of creation.
- Notice the different scenes behind each Person. There appears to be a temple, a tree, and a mountain. All three of these images convey a significant meaning that is in reference to each Person. In the temple, the Father dwells. The Son is a descendant from the tree of Jesse. It is through the Holy Spirit that God created, hence the mountain symbolizing all of creation.

**For further depth and understanding of this icon, please visit:*

<https://d2wldr9tsuuj1b.cloudfront.net/17509/documents/2017/8/Trinityicon.pdf>

Materials needed: Paper or canvases, water colors or non-fluid alternatives

With your child(ren), replicate Rublev's icon or create an icon depicting something Trinitarian in your own lives. Like Rublev, make sure to depict not just three different persons, but aspects of each person that are significant to them alone, such as personal features, clothing, or hobbies.

**Please see example below*

PARENT CONNECTION

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO



Closing Prayer

** Always begin and end each prayer with the Sign of the Cross*

Lord, You are eager to be known by us and since we are created in Your image and likeness, everything in us desires to know You too. May our faith grow through our personal relationship(s) with Jesus, so that we may assent in our understanding of who You are — both in our heads and in our hearts. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

PARENT CONNECTION

UNIT ONE LESSON TWO

