

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Trinity Sunday
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

When the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire in 313 C.E. he wanted the religion to have unity and consistency in beliefs and practices. There were many varying sects at the time. Constantine assembled all the great theologians and church leaders of the time at the Council of Nicaea. For the next four hundred years there was great conflict and debate over doctrines such as the Trinity and other councils were also convened when there were conflicts. The Apostle's and Nicene Creeds emerged from these councils. Trinity Sunday was incorporated into the church year in 1334. It is always the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday. The doctrine states that God is revealed to us in three distinct persons existing in a mutual relationship of love. The Trinity represents the total revelation of God: God the Father as Creator, God the Son as Redeemer, and God the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier and Comforter. This belief is supported in the Bible, creeds, and doctrines of the Church.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel and Reading

This passage is known as The Great Commission. It is Jesus giving the disciples authority and telling them instructions so they understand what their mission is in the world. The formula, "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit," is the Trinitarian wording that we all hear in baptisms and in our creeds.

Theme: God's Call to Us to Mission

Before: You will need poster or mural paper, markers, and crayons.

Beginning: Invite the children to gather in a circle and ask them what it means to follow someone. What do we learn when we follow someone?

Opening Prayer: Loving God, be with us as we explore what your call to us means in our lives. Help us to hear your call and discover how we can live into the mission you have given us. Amen.

The Story: Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Questions:

- I wonder what the word disciple means? (invite the children to wonder, and if they need prompts, you can tell them it means follower or believer)

- Jesus tells us to go make disciples. I wonder how we could help people follow Jesus?
- How have you seen others follow Jesus?
- I wonder what are the ways that we follow Jesus?

Activity: Disciple Poster

Invite the children to create a mural or poster that pictures all the ways they follow Jesus. You can have them work off of one big sheet of paper or smaller pieces of paper.

Game: You can invite the children to play follow the leader, especially doing actions that Jesus taught us to do – pray, help, love, etc.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to put away their supplies and clean up with your help. Gather them in a circle and ask them to share what they created.

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, you have called us to create disciples, followers of Jesus, and to spread your word. Bless us and guide us as we go out into the world to respond and to live into your call to each of us. In the name of the Holy Trinity we pray. Amen.

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