

DOCTRINAL ELEMENT

Person of Christ

TOPIC

Jesus, Second Person of the Trinity

GOAL

The goal of this session is to help teens understand that Jesus is true God and true man and that he reveals the Father and the Holy Spirit. Teens will better understand why the Trinity is the most important truth we believe in as Christians and the difference it makes in our life.

SECONDARY RELIGION GUIDELINES

(II.I.A.2.d.i,ii) (II.II.A.4)

SCRIPTURE

The Word made flesh- Jn 1:1ff; Jn 16:15
Relationship between Jesus and the Father
 - Mt 11:27; Lk 10:22; Jn 10:30; Jn 14:8

Trinitarian prayer- Jn 14:14; Jn 16:23
Jesus and the Holy Spirit- Jn 16:7; Jn 14:16; Jn 14:26

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GOLDEN THREADS

The Trinity: This night is explicitly focused on the Trinity - helping teens know why the Trinity is vital to our faith and how Jesus reveals the Trinity. They will be better able to explain both what we believe about the Trinity and how it makes a difference in our lives.

The Incarnation: We would not know about the Trinity had not Jesus, Second Person of the Trinity, became man and revealed the Father's mercy and sent the Holy Spirit.

The Paschal Mystery: Jesus' death on the Cross is the most profound revelation of the Father's love. Through the Paschal Mystery Jesus sends the Holy Spirit and thus makes us partakers in God's divine nature.

ANNUAL THEME RELEVANCE

Built on Christ. Jesus is the Word of God, the eternal Son of the Father and giver of the Holy Spirit unto the Church. As true God and true man, Jesus gives us forgiveness of our sins and access to the Father in the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION

- To confess faith in the Trinity is to believe that in God's one Nature there are three divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Belief in the Trinity is the central truth of our faith; it forms and informs all other doctrines such as the Incarnation, Sacraments, the Church, Mary, etc....
 - "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other

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mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith." (CCC, 234)

- Our faith in the Trinity is rooted in the testimony of Scripture which makes it clear that while there is only one God (Dt 6:4-5; Is 45:22-24), we are called to believe that the Father is God (Mt 6:8-13), Jesus is God (Jn 1:1; 20:28), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 2:32-33). To keep these beliefs in tension—only one God, but Father, Son, and Spirit are all God—while never compromising either side, is what is at the heart of the mystery of the Trinity.
- The Trinity is a community of love: the Father exists from all eternity. The Father speaks one Word in love that includes every aspect of his divinity. This Word, God's Son, in turn, gives all that he has received back to the Father in love. This eternal relationship of love between Father and Son is itself a divine person, the Holy Spirit, the Love of the Father and the Son. (cf. CCC 253-260)
- Because God is love he freely chose to create, first angels, the whole universe and mankind as an expression of his love. If God were not a community of persons, he would not be love. If God were not love, there would be no creation, no you or me, *nothing*.
 - "Scripture and Tradition never cease to teach and celebrate this fundamental truth: "The world was made for the glory of God." St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things "not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it", for God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness: "Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand." (CCC 293ff.)
- Created in the Trinity's image, our vocation, our meaning in life, is to love. Man finds himself only in making a genuine gift of himself to God and others.
 - "Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." (*Gaudium et Spes*, 24)
- Jesus Christ, True God and True Man, fully reveals our call to love on the Cross. Jesus is both our example of how to love as God loves AND makes it possible for us to in fact love supernaturally by means of his Incarnation and the grace of the Holy Spirit.
 - "The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a figure of Him Who was to come, namely Christ the Lord. Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and his love, fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear." (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22)
- Our Baptism is our insertion into Christ and the life of the Trinity. Our journey in life is to live our baptismal call to imitate Christ and love perfectly so we can live with God in love for eternity.
 - "Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte 'a new creature,' an adopted son of God, who has become a 'partaker of the divine nature,' member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1265)

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Video:

- **What is the Trinity? (2:25 min)**
Love is not just something God does, it is who God is.
<http://www.mycatholicvoice.com/media/Oupu45>

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- **What is the Trinity? (2:05 min)** Raises good questions about the absolute mystery of the Trinity and clears up a couple of misconceptions.
http://www.tangle.com/view_video?viewkey=f778afcacf440a81492

Songs with a Trinitarian connection

- “Wonderful Maker” by Jeremy Camp
- “How Great is Our God” by Chris Tomlin
- “Love Comes Down” by Matt Maher
- “You are So Good to Me” by Third Day
- “Father, I Adore You” by Matt Brouwer

OTHER RESOURCES

Search www.books.google.com/ for these and read online for FREE! (limited preview available but you can read a couple chapters before reaching viewing limit)

- Fulton Sheen- *Three to Get Married* (chapters 3-6): An excellent description of love, marriage and relationships and how they are grounded in who God is as Trinity.
- Frank Sheed- *Theology for Beginners* (chapters 4-5): Gives a general introduction to the Trinity, chapter 4 “The Blessed Trinity” and chapter 5 on “The Three Persons”
- Scott Hahn – *First Comes Love* (chapter 4): Another accessible description of the Trinity.

GATHER

Opening Prayer

Prayer from Trinity Sunday

Father,

You sent your Word to bring us truth

And your Spirit to make us holy.

Through them we come to know the mystery of your life.

Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Icebreaker: *Triangle Tag*

Have teens form groups of five; three join hands. The fourth group member will be outside the circle of three that are holding hands. He/She will be the chaser. The fifth person goes in the circle as the person that the chaser will try and tag (the taggee). On the leader’s signal the chaser will try and tag the designated person in the group. The group holding hands will work together to try and protect the taggee. Play for a designated amount of time and if they tag the taggee then switch roles.

OR

Teenmatch.com Skit: See Appendix 2. This skit lasts about 6-8 minutes. The cast can be all teens or all adults but not a mix because of the dating context. Ideally the cast should practice before hand, but if necessary they can have a copy of their lines with them. “Teenmatch.com” is not (yet) a real website. Obviously, feel free to adapt aspects of the skit to your needs. However, certain elements are meant to more deeply reflect Trinitarian theology, for example, Jesus introduces the Father and the Father and Son simultaneously introduce the

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Holy Spirit because Jesus is the only way to the Father (Mt 11:27) and the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son (Nicene Creed).

EXPLANATION

Begin by asking questions about the skit:

- What did Ben and Sarah learn about God during their “date”?
- What are some misconceptions we have about God?
- Ben and Sarah were caught off-guard by their meeting with God, what are other ways that we “meet God” unexpectedly?

The skit was meant to demonstrate two very important things: First, God goes to great lengths so that you might come to know him and second, once we’re in a relationship with God, he doesn’t want to be superficial, but he wants his love to reach the very depths of our heart. God will come to meet us in the most everyday, normal situations- through friends, sports, vacations, who knows- maybe even a dating service? As we grow in our relationship with God, we discover that there is so much more to the relationship than we ever imagined.

Tonight we’re going to talk about who the Trinity is, how Jesus revealed the Trinity, and why it is ABSOLUTELY CENTRAL to everything we believe. If we want to know Jesus better, we need to know how Jesus is related to the Father and the Holy Spirit, just like getting to know our friend’s family really helps us to get to know that person.

First, what do we believe about the Trinity? (*One God in three Persons*). What is different from what we as Christians believe about God verses Jews or Muslims? (*Love isn’t just something God does or is an attribute of God, for Christians, it is who God is*). What difference does the Trinity make in our lives? (*This will be answered in the three points below.*)

Our faith in the Trinity is rooted in the testimony of Scripture which makes it clear that while there is only one God (Dt 6:4-5; Is 45:22-24), we are called to believe that the Father is God (Mt 6:8-13), Jesus is God (Jn 1:1; 20:28), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 2:32-33). To keep these beliefs in tension-only one God, but Father, Son, and Spirit are all God- while never compromising either side, is what is at the heart of the mystery of the Trinity. (*Questions?*)

Of course, no one has all the answers, but we shouldn’t think that God is asking us to believe what is impossible, like asking us to believe 3=1. Who God is as Trinity is a mystery, not a mystery to be solved, but rather a mystery to be beheld. In fact, it took the Church hundreds of years to fully discern and explain accurately what we now take for granted about the Trinity, so even if I had all the answers (ha!), we could never exhaust God’s mystery.

So, now we have a basic idea of what the Trinity is and we know we can’t completely understand how God can exist like this, but that shouldn’t be surprising. Still, there’s the question: What difference does this make? What is so special about “3 Persons in 1 God”? The answer is EVERYTHING! The Trinity makes all the difference in the world. Here are just 3 reasons why the Trinity is absolutely awesome:

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Reason One: God is Love

(Have a teen read 1 John 4:7-12) God is love! This is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible, but if God were not Trinity, we couldn't say "God is love." Not only that, we wouldn't be here to not say it, because there would be no creation! Why would God, infinitely perfect and happy in himself, create anything except to share his love with others? It takes three to love, just like we heard in the skit- there is a Lover, a Beloved, and Love. Or a Giver, a Receiver and the Gift *(If you want to emphasize that one person can't "be" love, wrap a present and have a teen or leader give themselves a present. Pretty boring. The idea is that it takes 3 to love, so a completely solitary God cannot be love)*. So the Father is the Giver, the Son Receives, and the Holy Spirit is the Gift given. Since we are made in God's image, we are made IN love, TO BE loved, and TO love others. Just as the Father and the Son give themselves completely to the other, so we are called to give our lives away in love- love for God and neighbor. Have you ever asked "what is the meaning of life?" Do you believe there is an answer? I would propose that a very good answer to the question is "To love one another as God has loved you".

Questions:

- *How does this compare with other ideas of what life is about?*
- *What is a loving action that someone did for you recently?*

People have a million ideas of what love is, if we don't know what "love" we're talking about, we're not going to know what love to pursue. In fact, some things can appear loving that are just the opposite (child getting spoiled, euthanasia). I love *Lindt* chocolate, backpacking, and the Discovery channel, does God want me to star in a reality show hiking to all the Swiss chocolate shops? Not exactly.

Jesus is the perfect example of love and reveals what true love "looks like", it is self-sacrificial. Giving of one's self completely gives life to another; this is what the Trinity looks like. Let's take a look at a couple of examples from the Gospels. First is the ultimate example of humility and giving. Jesus, Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, humbles himself so completely he lays aside the adoration of the angels and enters into the world becoming like us in all things but sin. Talk about sacrifice and love! The creator of the universe humbles himself to become his creation in every way but sin.

Jesus didn't stop there...out of love and obedience to the Father, Jesus makes the ultimate act of love for us. His love finds its fulfillment on the Cross, his perfect act of love. When Jesus freely laid aside his own life out of love, what did the Father do? He raised him from the dead! This is the "law of love"- to live we must die, to receive we must give, to be happy we must seek other's happiness. It works and it's true because it reflects the Trinity. Where do you see the "law of love" in your family, in the world or in the Church?

Reason Two: To Be is To Be in Community

We all desire community, it is stamped on our hearts. We love to feel like we're a part of something bigger and that we contribute to the group. How do you see this in your school and everyday life? There is something about being a part of a close-knit group of friends, a good sports team, or any other groups that really 'clicks' that makes a person feel like "more" of themselves. When Jesus revealed that God is a community

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of Person: Father, Son, and Spirit, we were welcomed into the ULTIMATE community, one that far exceeds any purely human creation. This community is, of course, the Catholic Church. 1.1 billion Catholics, countless saints in heaven, our brothers and sisters being purified in Purgatory, a gazillion angels, and the Trinity!

Listen to how a Christian writer *1800 years ago* described Christian communities and the impact it had on those around them:

(Have a teen read the following quote from Tertullian): “[Donations are given] to support and bury poor people, to supply the wants of boys and girls destitute of means and parents, and of old persons confined now to the house; such, too, as have suffered shipwreck; and if there happen to be any in the mines, or banished to the islands, or shut up in the prisons, for nothing but their fidelity to the cause of God’s Church, they become the nurslings of their confession. But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. *See, they say, how they love one another*, for themselves are animated by mutual hatred; how they are ready even to die for one another, for they themselves will sooner put to death (Apology, 39).”

This quote is from a theologian named Tertullian who was defending the beliefs and lifestyle of the Christians against pagan attacks around the year 200 AD in North Africa. The early Christians lived in complete contrast to the prevailing culture of the times, which had zero charity organizations. Their mutual compassion stood out as a totally new thing: *see how they love one another*. This radical new form of community didn’t have its basis in Facebook, texting, sport team loyalty or the right fashion; it was rooted in a new relationship with God which created an entirely new level of relationship with one another. If God is a community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and God loved me so much he died for me, how should I love my neighbor? God doesn’t just desire a radical relationship of love with you personally, because he is a community, he wants the whole human family to be visibly knit together in love and mutual concern.

Reason Three: Human Dignity

(Have a teen read quote from St. Leo the Great): “Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God (see CCC 1691).”

Last but not least, the Trinity reveals the greatness of our own human dignity. Before Christianity, human life did not have very much value. Greeks, Romans and other cultures had no qualms taking human life, exposing babies to die, and using death as a form of entertainment. Only with the coming of Christ did mankind realize the incredible worth of every human life. How? Why? Because Christ opened up an entirely new relationship between man and God. If you ever doubt your own self worth- remember who you are! God is your Father, and you are so precious he paid the price of Jesus’ own Blood to redeem you. To allow you to share in his own divinity, he sent the Holy Spirit into your heart so you can pray “Abba, Father.” This isn’t just Hallmark card stuff; this is real and true for each and every one of you.

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For a Muslim to call God “Father” is blasphemy, for a Jew it’s an analogy, for an atheist it’s nonsense, but for a Catholic Christian, it’s a miracle of love. And it’s true.

To close, we remember that the Trinity is ultimately a mystery that is way beyond any of our abilities to comprehend. But that’s ok, because remember, God is not a mystery to be solved, but to be *beheld*.

(Close with the following story of “St. Augustine and the Boy by the Sea”):

“One day St. Augustine was walking along the beach trying to understand the full meaning of the mystery of the Trinity. He came across the child digging a hole in the beach and running to the water and bringing back water in a seashell and pouring it into the hole. Augustine asked the boy what he was doing. He said he was trying to pour all the water in the sea into the hole. When Augustine told the boy this was impossible, the boy responded that it was also impossible for the human mind to understand the mystery of the Trinity. Then the boy vanished. The incident revealed to Augustine that the human mind can no more fully understand the mystery of the Trinity than a seashell can empty out the sea.” (When elected Pope in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI had seashells embroidered on the vestments he wore at his installation Mass, in part, to represent his affinity for St. Augustine and humility toward his personal theological endeavors.)

(Shorten the talk as necessary to allow for some discussion.)

APPLICATION

Activity #1: Seashell Painting

Hand out large scallop seashells to every teen and explain that:

1. First, the shell represents the story of St. Augustine trying to understand the Trinity. God is infinitely greater than we can imagine.
2. Second, it represents our Baptism because priests often baptize with a shell. The shell reminds us that by our Baptism we have been forgiven of our sins, and made adopted sons and daughters of God. Let us pray for the grace to live accordingly.
3. Third, it serves as a metaphor for our pilgrimage of life. The grooves in the shell, which come together at a single point, represent the various routes pilgrims traveled, eventually arriving at a single destination, heaven. The scallop shell is also a metaphor for the pilgrim. As the waves of the ocean wash scallop shells up on the shores of the sea, God's hand also guides the pilgrims to heaven.

Then, using paint, invite the teens to prayerfully spend time painting their shell with images or words or thoughts they may have - something to personalize the shell and inspire them in their prayer life.

Activity #2: Letter from God- Go to the church and have the teens write a letter from one of the Persons of the Trinity to themselves (the teen). Use the attached resource “Scriptures on the Trinity” as a reflection and for ideas. Collect these letters and mail them to the teens after 2-3 weeks.

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Activity #3: We Need Each Other- See attached resource. Through this activity teens work to accomplish something together that individually would be impossible. Each person is dependent on another to use their own particular gift. Without any team members it would be (virtually) impossible to complete the puzzle. The analogy to the Trinity is that God's power is manifested through surrender, it is by giving that we receive, by serving that we reign (cf. Luke 22:24-26; Phil 2:3-4; Eph 5:21; John 5:19-24; John 14:25-26). This is true because it is rooted in the very being of God as a community of Persons united in life-giving love. God made himself dependent on Mary's "yes" to become man and Jesus chose to be dependent upon his humanity for our salvation.

Activity #4: Small Groups (*choose from some of the questions below or use your own*)

Small Group Questions:

1. What did you think about the skit? Did it change the way you see God? Why or why not?
2. (Impromptu debate) If the meaning of life is not about love, what is it about? Do other things bring people lasting happiness?
3. Does showing love to others help them believe that God loves them? Why/how?
4. What Person of the Trinity do you like to pray to the most-Jesus, the Father, Holy Spirit, or just plain 'ol God? Why?
5. What is more difficult: to love another person no matter what or not to receive love from someone you really want to love you?

SEND

If you don't use the seashell painting activity, simply explain the three points and give each teen a shell as they leave.

Summary: What does this have to do with Jesus?

Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, leads us to the Father and sends the Holy Spirit so that we might understand our vocation to love both in this world and for all eternity.

Closing Prayer

Go to chapel for prayer time (if you didn't do the letter from God activity). This song is beautiful when sung *a capella*.

Father I adore you and I lay my life before you. How I love you.
Jesus I adore you and I lay my life before you. How I love you.
Spirit I adore you and I lay my life before you. How I love you.

Or:

Prayer of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity

O my God, Trinity whom I adore; help me to forget myself entirely that I may be established in you as still and as peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing trouble my peace or make me leave you, O my Unchanging One, but may each minute carry me further into the depths of your mystery. Give peace to my soul; make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and your resting place. May I never leave you there alone but be wholly present, my faith wholly vigilant, wholly adoring, and wholly surrendered to your creative action.

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Appendix 1 SCRIPTURES ON THE TRINITY

GOD THE FATHER

You Are Precious in God's Eyes

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-31)

God Disciplines Those Whom He Loves

"For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:6-11)

God Will Wipe Away All Tears

"Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people...he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3)

GOD THE SON

Jesus is Truly God and Truly Man

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'" (John 20:27)

Jesus Came to Save Sinners

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Life in Christ

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Jesus is Worthy of All Praise

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit Teaches Us How To Pray

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)

Jesus Sends Us the Holy Spirit To Proclaim the Gospel

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Let Us Walk in the Spirit, Not in the Flesh

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“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:17-25)

Appendix 2 Teenmatch.com Skit “Getting to Know God”

This skit will introduce the theme of the night in a fun way and help them:

- Know God is a community of Persons united in love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Know God made us and all creation out of love
- Know that Jesus is True God and True Man, and that through Jesus our sins are forgiven and we become sons and daughters of God

The basic premise of the skit is that God wants to do whatever is necessary so that teens will get to know Him better so He tries some non-traditional methods. Sarah and Ben are not on a date with each other.

CAST:

Father: needs to be a guy

Son: needs to be a guy

Holy Spirit: needs to be a girl

(Each Person of the Trinity is wearing a white t-shirt with a triangle either drawn right on the shirt or cut out of paper and hanging around the neck. They should be seated in chairs around a table with a fourth chair open, something to evoke a coffee shop or other casual meeting place for a first date.)

Date #1: Girl

Date #2: Guy

Son: *(sipping coffee)* “Um, Father, I’m not sure this was such a good idea”

Father: “Nonsense, Son! You know teens don’t listen to homilies as much as they used to. We had to get into the *digital age* if anyone was ever going to get to know us.”

Son: “OK, but is using *teenmatch.com* the best way to do that? I mean, our facebook page *does* have 3 ½ million friends.”

Holy Spirit: “True, but all there is is a hazy picture of earth, it leaves a lot out.”

Father: “Don’t worry! Look, here is our first date coming to meet us”
(in comes Sarah)

Sarah: “Hello, I’m Sarah. I’m here to meet God. You said you like to *make* beaches and then take walks on them? That sounds so cool.”

(Father, Son and Holy Spirit all stand and shake hands with Sarah)

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Jesus: “Yep, that’s us. So nice to meet you Sarah. I’m God the Son. This is God my Father... (*gesturing*).”

Father: “Hello!”

Jesus and the Father: (*together*) “And this is God the Holy Spirit” (*they simultaneously put a hand on HS’s shoulder. Sarah sits in open chair*)

HS: “Welcome!”

Sarah: “Oh I see, so you’re all three gods?”
(*F, S, and HS all at once “oh no, no, no”*)

Father: “You see, we’re three *Persons* in one *Divine Nature*”

Sarah: “Oh, gotcha, like a 3 leaf clover, right?”

Son: (*rolling eyes*) “No, not exactly.”

HS: “It’s a little deeper than that. Maybe think of the Giver, the Receiver, and the Gift (*pointing to Father, Son, and herself, respectively*). Or the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love between them (*repeat same motions, Jesus and the Father fist bump*). You can’t have a Receiver and a Gift without a Giver, or a Lover without Love? In a similar way we are all equal and yet distinct.”

Sarah: “Very cool. But where do the beaches come in?”

Son: “Well, you see, out of the fullness of our love we chose to create the universe and human beings, so you could share in our love. Beaches are just part of the package.”

Sarah: “Wow, I never thought of the Trini...I mean you that way. This is really deep. So when do we get to take that walk I’ve been waiting for? I feel like we could spend a lot of time together.”

HS: “Hang on just a little bit Sarah. Here comes another date and this one is going to take some extra grace to get to.”

Sarah: (*shrugging shoulders*) “This is the weirdest date I’ve ever been on.” (*Holy Spirit stands to greet Ben*)

(*enter Ben*)

Ben: (*going up to Holy Spirit, acting smooth*) “Hey I’m Ben, I’m here to meet God. I believe you said you were the most beautiful Person in the universe.”

Holy Spirit: “Well, I am, but I come with these guys.” (*pointing to F and S*)

Ben: “Whoa! A couple of dudes! What do you mean!”

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Father: “Come on Ben, what did you expect? We’re God OK, we kind of transcend gender, hello?!”

Ben: (*plops dejectedly into the chair where Holy Spirit was sitting. It needs to be right next to Jesus*) “Ah, Holy Spirit, how could you do this to me? You set me up!”

Holy Spirit: “Sorry Ben, but this was basically the only way we could *all* see you. We haven’t heard from you in a while”

Ben: (*looking uncomfortable*) “Well, you know, I’ve been busy. I got a lot going on.”

Jesus: “Hey great! Like what?”

Ben: “Um, well, school and work and football and friends”

Jesus: “Cool. How do you like your new friends from football? You’ve all been hanging out a lot.”

Ben: (*embarrassed*) *sigh* “Hey, how did you know....”

Jesus: “Ben, I’m God too, remember? I know everything.”

Ben: (*gulps*) “Wait, you know... *everything*?”

Jesus: “Yes, Ben, everything.”

Ben: “So you know what I said to my parents when they took my cell phone away?”

Jesus: “Yes Ben”

Ben: “And what happened at the party last weekend?”

Jesus: “Yes”

Ben: (*gulps*) “And what I looked at online last night?”

Jesus: “Yes”

Ben: (*puts head in hands*)

Jesus: (*leans close to Ben, puts hand on shoulder*) “Ben, I love you. I love you with the same love that God the Father has for me. I love you so much I became man and died on the cross to take away your sins.

Ben: (*ashamed*) “I’m sorry Jesus. I knew what I was doing was wrong. I don’t know what to do; it’s so easy to fall into these sins.

Jesus: “Ben, I know, that’s why I give you all the power of the Holy Spirit to help you (*HS smiles and flexes muscles*). Best of all, by the grace of the Holy Spirit we make you an

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adopted son of the Father. Nothing helps you live for God more than to remember whose son you are and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you.”

Ben: “I...I can’t believe you would do that for me. I don’t deserve any of it.”

Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*simultaneously*): “I know.”

Father: “But I love you Ben, there’s nothing I wouldn’t do for you. I just want you to be in heaven with me forever.”

(Father and Ben hug. Jesus and Holy Spirit join in. F, S, and HS motion Sarah to join in hug then they all walk off together)

Father: *(excitedly to Son, with hand gestures)* “So I was thinking... we really need to open a Twitter account...”

“We Need Each Other” Instructions: Copy this paper onto colored construction paper. Cut along the dotted lines to create a simple puzzle. Gather participants into groups of three.

One person is blindfolded. One person is mute. The third person cannot use their hands (have them place their hands behind their backs).

Then together as a team, they should try to put the puzzle together. Here’s the trick – only the ‘blind’ person may touch the puzzle pieces. The finished product will be an equilateral triangle.

Variations:

The ‘mute’ person may move the ‘blind’ person’s hands. (don’t tell them this, let them figure it out on their own)

The ‘mute’ person may not touch the ‘blind’ person’s hands – this makes the activity more difficult.

