

# God Is Trinity

## Preparation for the Session

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Understand the need to trust in God's presence and look for guidance in his Word
- Recall that God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us find our way to him
- Discover how the Holy Spirit acts as Guide and Counselor for the Catholic Church
- Describe how the Persons of the Holy Trinity relate to one another and with humanity
- Explain how the love among the members of the Trinity is a model for human affection and bonds
- Explore how the Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct yet share total union
- Discover how the nature of the Holy Trinity is the source of God's loving plan
- Define *grace* as God's free gift and sharing in his Divine life
- Examine how humans journey into deeper truth, wisdom, and love in relationship with God

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The doctrine of the Trinity, one God in three Divine Persons, is difficult to grasp for all of us. It is a mystery that is known by faith. While your son/daughter at this age is a little more comfortable with this mystery than younger children, he/she might still struggle with conceptualizing how God can be one and yet three at the same time. In this chapter, you and your child will be contemplating the mystery of the Trinity. We can better understand the mystery of the Trinity in terms of our own relationships such as with family and friends. Discuss with your child the joys, challenges, and responsibilities that flow from those relationships. You will have the opportunity to ponder the mystery of the Trinity and how the love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have for each other demonstrates the love we should emulate in the relationships in our lives. Do not try too hard to explain this mystery but invite your child to wonder about the unfathomable and unconditional love God has for us.*

**Children at This Age:** *Your child is expanding her/his imagery of God. She/he is beginning to identify with God in different ways as she/he attempts to understand him more. At this age, young people still understand God primarily through the lens of their own lived experience, especially what they experience in their family life, their prayer life, and in the world around them. You have this awesome opportunity to teach your child about the Holy Trinity and how the love that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit share is a model for our own relationships.*

## PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 91,  
God Is Trinity

**Make** sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

**Find** a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



**Let Us Pray** Together make the Sign of the Cross. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

**Explain** that the desire deep inside every human heart is to know the truth about God.

**Say:** The Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—is a perfect communion of love. Because of our Baptism, you and all the members of the Church, past and present, are part of this love.



**Guide** your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?

**Invite** your child to respond and also share what you heard.

**Say:** While we cannot fully understand the breadth of God’s love, it is wondrous to reflect upon the truth that the God who is love, shares his very life and love with us.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- How is it possible that God’s love for his Son is in each of us? (*Jesus’ mission was to reveal God’s love in every human heart. As we grow in our trust of Jesus’ presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit, we may come to know that love in a personal way for ourselves and more easily recognize God’s love for all people.*)
- How much can we ever really understand God? (*While we cannot ever fully understand God or his love for us, we can learn to relate to it through the loving relationships we experience with others, especially our family members.*)

**Ask** what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Getting Started

**Read** aloud the paragraph.

**Tell** your child to read the directions and complete the activity on page 92. When he/she is finished, share one thing you know about each person of the Holy Trinity. Ask your child to share some of his/her answers.

**Turn to Page 93**

**Preview** the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

**Have** your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete this activity on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other one thing you know to be true about God. Discuss an experience you have had with a person who you believe has a deep faith.

**Ask:** What do you think is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God more deeply?

**Discuss** briefly.

## PART 2: Discover

**Direct** your child to independently complete pages 94–99. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

## PART 3: In Summary & Live

**Turn to Page 99,**  
In Summary

*When you return,* review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Invite your child to share what he/she can learn when looking to the Holy Trinity as a model for his/her own relationships with others and with God.

**Turn to Page 100**

**Direct** your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Your child is reminded that in making the Sign of the Cross, we are remembering that we were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Sign of the Cross is an act of dedicating ourselves to God. It is a plea that God might strengthen us for the work of loving and serving others. It reminds us that all blessings come from God, and that we should treat others with kindness in what we do, think, and say. While we cannot explain the Holy Trinity in a way the human brain can fully comprehend, we come to some understanding of the Trinity's love and grace within us as we live out the teachings we learn from Scripture and through the practices of the Church. Through these teachings, we strengthen our minds and hearts to live in love and for love. As we do this, our lives become a journey into deeper faith and truth. We grow in wisdom and in our ability to love unselfishly. We can then reflect the love, interest, and care God shows for us. The Sign of the Cross is a powerful symbol known universally. Each time we make the Sign of the Cross, we enter a little more deeply into the mystery of God's love.*

**Ask:** How would you explain the sign of the Cross to someone who is not Catholic? (It is an action that symbolizes and reminds us of the Holy Trinity, three Divine Persons in one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)

**Say:** By making the sign of the Cross, we mark ourselves for Christ and remind ourselves to root our lives in God's love. Now let's read about Saint Frances of Rome and how she shared God's love and helped those in need.

**Read** aloud People of Faith.

**Say:** Saint Frances loved the Roman people so much that she stepped out of the social boundaries of the time to help those in need. She is a good example for us on how we can show and share God's love through our care for others, especially for those who are most in need.

**Point** out the Explain activity.

**Say:** We are going to work on this activity separately and then come back together and talk about it.

Once you have both thought of a recent problem and how you resolved it, share how you could see God's care for you in the solution to your problem.

**Conclude** the session by praying the Act of Hope on Page 387.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student & Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).