

Family + Faith, Unit 2: Trinity Session**I. Invite**

[slide 2] Begin the session with a warm welcome to the whole **Domestic Church** and let them know that God loves them and how very welcome and appreciated they are.

- Welcome Domestic Church
- Theme – **Trinity** (remind participants that each unit in the student books covers a theme and each unit has three chapters. The information presented today will serve as a briefing on the theme for parents as they work with their children on the three chapters.) (Read slide 2 notes)
 - » [slide 3] Short description of Trinity for this session (Read slide 3 notes)
 - » [slide 4] Officially open the session with the **Invite**. (Read slide 4 notes)
 - » Show [slide 5] with the prayer center set up on a table. Suggest that they set up a prayer center with their children.
 - » [slide 6] SAY: *I invite you to settle in your chair, take a few deep breathes, close your eyes, or to just be still; open your minds and your hearts to what God is saying to you in this passage. What is it that speaks to you? What one word or phrase stands out? Why might God be offering that word or phrase to you?*
 - » [slides 7 & 8] Proclaim the passage, pause for 5 seconds or so and then ask the questions on next slide [slide 9] Invite families to take a moment to think and discuss the questions and then write down the word or phrase in their **Family + Faith Journal**. Ask for a volunteer or two to share why that word or phrase has meaning to them. In case there are no volunteers, be prepared with your own word or phrase so you can model the process for the group.
 - » [slide 10] SAY: *In every chapter our children hear the Word of God, reflect on it, and open their hearts and minds to how God is speaking to them in this reading of Scripture. This reflection process is based on an ancient form of prayer called **Lectio Divina**. In it, we read/hear the Word of God, listen carefully, and reflect on what God is saying to us.* (read slide 10 notes)

II. Discover – Catholics Believe

- » [slide 11] SAY: *We continue to explore this theme as we look at what the Church teaches about the Holy Trinity.*
- » Read [slide 12] In this unit, we'll look at what the Church teaches about the Holy Trinity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a wonderful resource that tells us what the Catholic Church teaches about the Trinity.
- » Read [slide 13] and then SAY: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides us with some "explanation" of the "central mystery of Christian faith and life".*
- » Read [slide 14]
- » Read [slide 15] and then SAY: *The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life. We can never fully understand this mystery.*
- » Read [slide 16] and then SAY: *Saint Augustine who studied the Trinity for almost 20 years, wrote that: "If we think we can comprehend God, we deceive ourselves, for God is incomprehensible, and our language cannot do justice to the mystery of God."*
- » Read [slide 17]
- » [slide 18] Watch Fr. Barron's presentation, *God is Love.*
- » [slide 19] SAY: *God is love, and he creates within us a desire to be in union with him and with others. We are created in the image of God, meaning in the image of the Trinity. The Trinity reveals for us the love of the family through the love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are meant to mirror the love of the Trinity in our own relationships. The Holy Family most perfectly demonstrates the love of the Trinity.*
- » Read [slide 20] then SAY: *Here is a good practice that will keep you close to Our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Upon arriving at church for Mass, hold thumb, index finger, and middle finger together (3 fingers representing the 3 persons of the Trinity), dip them in the holy water font, then make the sign of the cross, and saying to oneself, "I was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen." By being intentional at this moment, The Sign of the Cross becomes a personal and intimate reminder of who we are, a child of the Triune God. An ideal pre-Mass ritual that will prepare your mind, body, and soul to fully participate in the Mass.*
- » Read [slide 21] then SAY: *And speaking of Mass, the mystery of the Trinity is reinforced throughout the Mass. This central mystery is an essential component of our celebration of the Mass. Here are the places throughout the Mass where the Holy Trinity is called upon.*
- » Read [slides 22 & 23] then SAY: *The Liturgy Is Itself Trinitarian!*
- » Read [slide 24] then SAY: *Here are some ways families can remind and reinforce this central mystery of our faith. Ask families to discuss these topics and write down in their **Family + Faith Journals** any thoughts or questions that arise. Ask for some responses from the group. Author Jon Sweeney quotes the early Church*

fathers in his book, *Almost Catholic*. He explores the ancient spirituality of Catholics and he tells us that the early Church Fathers taught the earliest Christians “If you wish to learn, do as I do.” Our children will do what we do. Our children watch us, and they will learn, as they do what we do. Sweeney reminds us, “Catholic imagination understands that repetition schools the heart.”

- » Read **[slide 25]**
- » **[slides 26 & 27]** Review pages 1 & 2 of the Family + Faith Parent Pages
- » **[slide 28]** Watch St Teresa Benedicta Video
- » **[slide 29]** Review page 3 of the Family + Faith Parent Pages
- » **[slide 30]** Review Reminder Page
- » **[slide 31]** End session with Closing Blessing