



Three Makes One

Children's Story

Cycle C, Trinity Sunday

Title: Three Makes One
Author: Karen Suderman
Church: St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, St. Jacobs, ON, now serving as a Witness worker in South Africa
Text: John 16: 12- 15
Theme: The Holy Spirit helps us love and understand Jesus.

Needed:

Three strands of yarn, string or rope long enough to braid. Each piece can be labeled with one of the following: "God the Father," "God the Son," and "God the Holy Spirit".

Small braids made of yarn (perhaps in three different colours) could be handed out to the children at the end of the story as a symbol of the trinity.

Gathering Activity:

Invite and welcome the children warmly. Help them settle into comfortable positions so they can listen well, and settle into a spirit of holy expectancy for this special part of worship. Open your Bible to John 16: 12-15.

Read the words of Jesus in verse 12 to them and pause, then say, "I wonder what things Jesus decided his disciples weren't ready to hear... It had something to do with the way God is Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit, but is still one. *Lay the Bible aside and pick up the strands that will form a braid.*

This Children's Story is part of a larger story archive available as a resource to teachers, ministers, and others of Mennonite Church Canada ©2010. Posted by permission of the author. Edited by Elsie Rempel, director of Christian Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada

Story:

Three Makes One?!

Trying to understand what God is like is one of the biggest mysteries of life. It is a very holy mystery. So let's be quiet and wonder about this holy mystery for a few seconds.

For a very long time, Christians have used the idea of a Trinity to think about what God is like.

Did you know that Trinity is a word we use to describe three parts of God?

Has anyone here heard the word Trinity before?

Does anyone have a guess about what it means?

There are three parts to the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Hold up the piece of rope labeled "Father".

Who is God the Father? Can anyone tell me anything about God the Father?

- Created the earth.
- Made us.
- Loves all creation from the biggest to the smallest.
- Other descriptions children add.

Hold up the piece of rope labeled "Son".

Who is the Son? In the Bible, Jesus was also called the Son.

What are some things that Jesus did while he was alive?

- Healed the sick.
- Gave the blind sight.
- Preached to people and told them stories and parables.
- Died for our sins.
- Other descriptions children add.

So far we have talked about God the Father

and God the Son. *Hold both pieces up together.* Jesus was alive a long time ago, and sometimes it is hard to know what God the Father and the Son have planned for us today. It is hard to know how they work together. *Try to get the two pieces of rope to attach or stick together, without success.*

Does anyone know what the third part of the Trinity is?

It is the Holy Spirit. **Hold up the piece of rope labeled Holy Spirit.**

I wonder what the Holy Spirit does. Does anyone have any guesses?

- Is with us, always, even right here, right now.
- Helps us understand what God the Father and God the Son have planned for us.
- Helps us understand things today that Jesus didn't tell his disciples about.
- Other descriptions children add.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one in how they work together, creating, loving, and revealing God to us. *Holding up all three ropes, then ask a child near you to hold the ends while you braid them together.* The Holy Spirit helps us know that God, the Father and Jesus are still working in the world. The Holy Spirit nudges us to join God's work in the world.

Prayer:

Father—Creator, Christ—Lord and Savior, Spirit—Loving Guide. You know us deep inside and help us to know you. You invite us to share in your life and your love. One God, three Persons, thank you for making us to be creative and helping and loving like you. Thank you for making the world and making things grow. We Love you God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, true and living, forever and ever. Amen.