

Sharing Our Life In The Trinity

FOR THE TEACHER:

In this lesson Jesus teaches his disciples more of what it means to be the adopted children of the Father. All of humanity is included in Jesus as children of the Father, forgiven and adopted in the Son's humanity as Christ. A disciple is someone who believes this truth and is learning from Jesus, in the Spirit, how to live in this truth and keep believing it in all aspects of life. This lesson, then, is Jesus explaining in more detail what life in the Trinity looks like and how we can live it.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Tug of war. Have the kids take turns playing tug of war using a jump rope. Afterwards ask them what things they do that get them in trouble with their parents. Have they ever played "tug of war" with a toy or stuffed animal with their brother, sister or friend? What were the consequences of their actions? (Time out, no TV, no video games, etc). Talk with the kids about how our Father in Heaven is the same way. He loves us as our parents do but he also wants what is good for us and sharing with each other is good for us.

Activity Lesson: Not sharing with each other can have bad consequences for us and others.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 6:20-31. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

PRIMARY LESSON: The Father created us to share our lives and take care of each other through Jesus, in the Spirit. When we don't share and take care of each other we hurt ourselves and our Father in heaven is disappointed in us.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Set out one small toy or piece of candy for each child. Group them all together and give them all to one of the children and none to the others. Some questions you can ask the kids: Does it seem fair for one kid to have every toy and other kids to have none? Would a loving parent give one kid all the toys and give none to the others? How much fun will it be for just one kid to have all the toys and play with them by himself? Conclude the activity by having the kid with all the toys share them with the others.

Activity Lesson: The Father, Son, and Spirit share their life together and they created us to live like they do: by sharing with each other.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sharing your joyful, eternal life with us through your Son Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit, help us to share with each other and take care of each other as we have been created to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.