

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Trinity Sunday**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: John 16:12-15**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

In three succinct sentences, Jesus continues to prepare the disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth. God who is and was has sent Jesus who is and was. Now the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, comes to be with the disciples and to be with us. We have God in three persons — a community. This community is so huge it has room for each of us to enter into this Kingdom of God.

**Theme: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit: Abundant Love**

**Before Class:** You will need sufficient copies of the Bible or of the scripture for the day so that each child may follow along as the passage is read. A large piece of newsprint would be helpful for taking notes. The activity calls for making Mobius strips. You will need a roll of calculator tape, transparent tape, pencils, and markers.

**Beginning:** Ask the children if this has ever happened to them: They were trying to explain something to another person. The other person clearly wanted to understand, was hanging on your every word and completely trusting you, but they simply did not get it — could not figure out what you were saying. Maybe you can remember a time someone was trying to explain something to you, and you just could not get it. Maybe that's how Jesus' disciples felt in the passage we have for today.

**Opening Prayer:** Blessed Trinity, today we give thanks for abundant love poured into our hearts by you and for your persistence in loving us even if we do not fully understand. Amen.

**The Scripture: John 16: 12-15** Ask for a volunteer to read, while the rest of the children follow along.

**Option:** Let's see if we can figure out what Jesus is saying here by putting things in our own words. The leader of the class can scribe what the children say.

**Questions:**

What "things" do we think Jesus had to say to the disciples? (The way he was going to die and the way the resurrection would happen.)

How did Jesus know that the disciples would not be able to tolerate it? (Are we ever ready for hard things when they happen?)

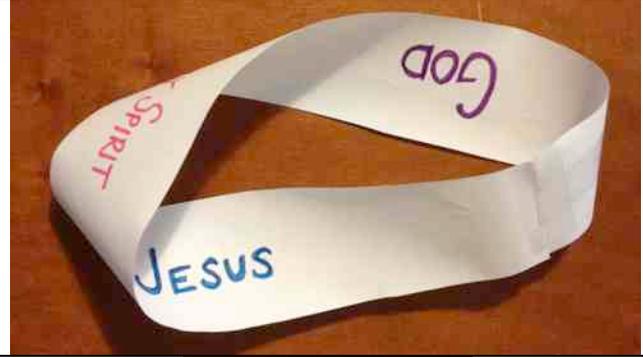
I wonder, who is the Spirit of Truth? (The Holy Spirit)

I wonder why Jesus doesn't name the Holy Spirit? (The disciples had not yet experienced the Holy Spirit — so the name would not help them understand.)

What message will the Holy Spirit bring? (The message that Jesus has been sent by God.)

How does what Jesus says in verse 15 show us that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit act together? (Everything that God has, God shares with Jesus; all that Jesus has he shares with the Holy Spirit.)

**Activity: Mobius Strips**

	<p>Cut a length of calculator tape about 30 inches long for each child. Show the children how to write the words "God" and "Jesus" on their strips as shown here.</p>
	<p>Then flip the strip up, so the words are face down and upside down. Then write "Holy Spirit" in the middle.</p>
	<p>Turn one end of the strip 180 degrees (twisting it once)</p>
	<p>Tape the two ends together by securely taping both sides. The paper now forms a continuous loop (with one twist that won't be very obvious). Now run your fingers over the paper from the word "God" to "Jesus" and keep on going. The words "Holy Spirit" that started on the other side of the paper are now on the same side as God and Jesus.</p>
	<p>If you fiddle with the paper, you can shape it into a triangle, and God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit can all be read without fingering the Mobius strip.  If you have time, the children can decorate their Mobius Strip as you talk about how the Trinity works together using the "Getting Closure" below.</p>

**Optional Activity:** Treasure Hunt

Invite the group to go on a treasure hunt. They are to find things that are made of three parts OR have three sides. (clovers, triangles, pencils have lead, wood, and eraser, etc.)

As they gather together after their hunt, have them share what they found to represent the Trinity.

**Optional Activity:** My Experience with the Trinity

Use the template below to invite the children to think about ways in which they have encountered the Trinity in their own lives. Invite them to either write words in each box or create a picture(s) in each box.

When have they seen God in Creation?

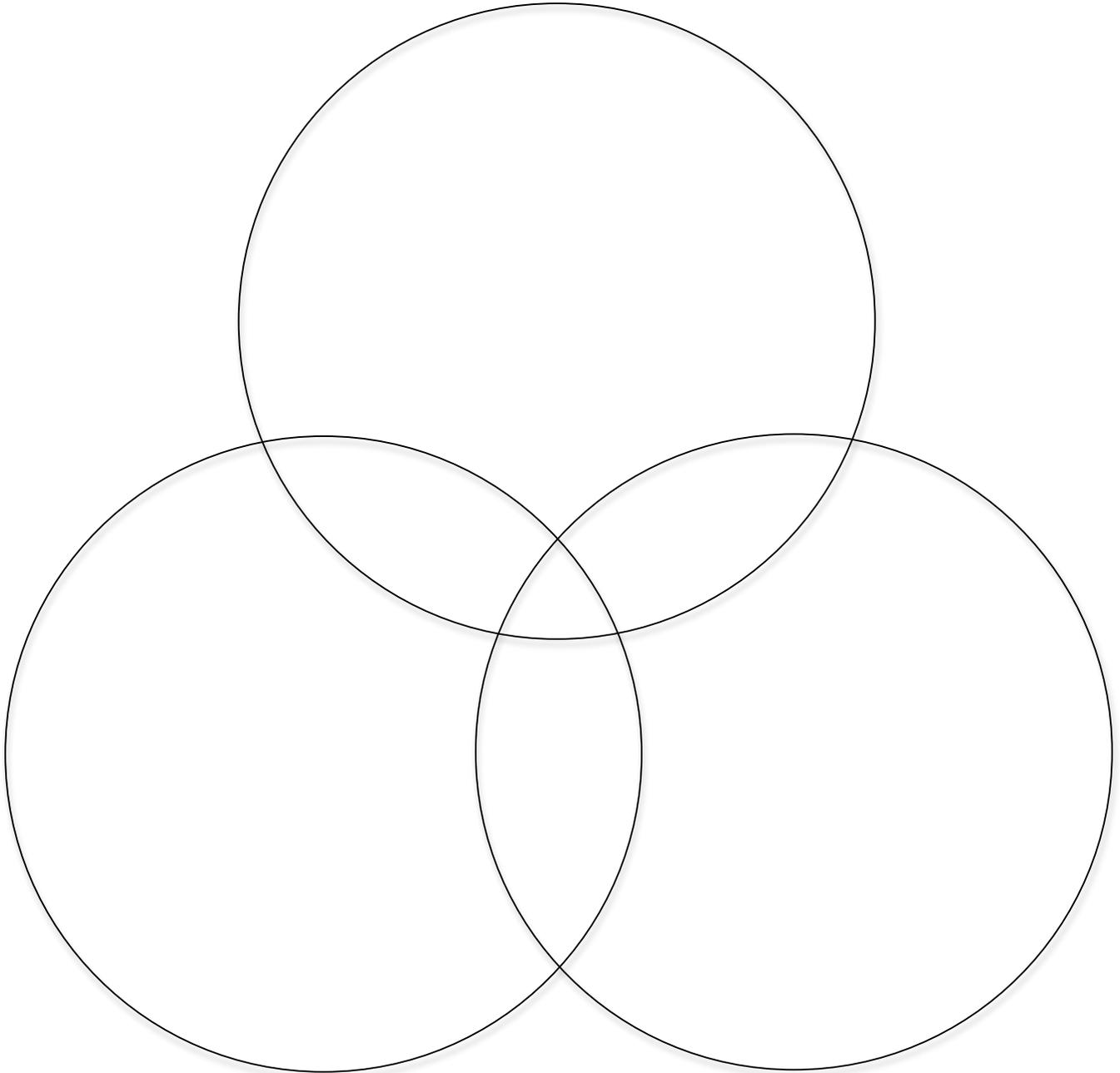
Where have they seen or heard or been a part of doing something that Jesus taught us?

When have they felt close to God and thus felt the Holy Spirit in their lives?

**Getting Closure:** I wonder what these strips tell us about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit? I wonder how we know God in each of these three ways: God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit? I wonder what the Holy Spirit tells us about community?

**Closing Prayer:** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (Adapted from 2 Corinthians 13:13)

When have I seen God in Creation?



When have I seen/heard/been a part of doing something that Jesus taught us?

When have I felt close to God/Holy Spirit in their lives?

## **John 16:12-15**

12 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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