

TRINITY BASICS

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What is the Trinity?

BIG IDEA

The Bible teaches that there is one eternal God revealed in three persons. The Father is God, The Son is God, and The Holy Spirit is God.

SCRIPTURE USED

Matthew 28:18-20: *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

2 Corinthians 13:14: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Ephesians 4:4-7: *For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.*

*There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.

Leader's Note: The opening illustration (see below) will be more successful if you can AVOID mentioning your topic of the evening until that point.

OPENER

(Leader's note: This opening activity serves as more of an illustration than a game, but it is a good conversation starter, so please don't skip it! This is also best conducted in a kitchen, or at least near a sink. There is a game-like activity later).

You will need:

- An egg, raw, but intact
- Another egg divided into yolk, white, and shell
- A kettle boiling or just a pot of water boiling, so that there is steam during the few minutes of your illustration presentation
- A bowl or cup of water
- A bowl or cup of ice

Set up two “stations” for your students to inspect when you are ready to begin today’s lesson. At the first station, have your three egg elements and the whole egg near to it. At the second station (which may need to be clustered around the place where you are making steam), place the cups of water and ice. The goal is to lead students to “use” the props to make an analogy about the Trinity. You can be as direct or vague about this as you choose to be. If no one in your group has had exposure to the Trinity, feel free to allow them a few minutes to be silly or suggest what you could teach with these props. Some possible introductions:

Ok everyone...here is what we have got for this evening: your turn to teach...what Biblically significant truth can you introduce me to with this stuff? Odds are high that if you have any kids in your group that have been in Church for a substantial period of time, they have had exposure to either the egg or water Trinity analogy. Let them explain it. If no one figures it out, you could say: **What if I told you that we are talking about the Trinity tonight... now is there anything you can show me using these things?**

It is not a problem if you need to explain the analogies yourself (The Trinity is like an egg: yolk, white, and shell but all are still parts of the egg, or like water: vapor, gas, and liquid), but if a student does it—all the better!

LESSON

ASK

- **Who has heard these analogies before?**
- **Do they help you to better understand the Trinity?**
- **Does anyone have any idea where in the Bible the word “Trinity” is used?** (Note, this is something of a “trick question” but creates a good transition....)

EXPLAIN

The word “Trinity” is not used in the Bible, but that does not make it less true of a concept, or less reliable. The word “Bible” is not used in the Bible either! It has been said that one of the best ways to understand the Trinity