

In the Name



Vacation Bible School

Published by *Pax Domini Press*

Sample Packet

IN THE NAME

[Sample Packet]

A Vacation Bible School Program written and published by Pax Domini Press

Customer Service and Ordering Information: (419) 475-6140

www.pax-domini.com

Who is Pax Domini Press?

Pax Domini Press is a small but growing publishing company which aims to provide an alternative to the highly commercialized products of the leading Christian publishing houses.

What are some Pax Domini Press Products?

Pax Domini Press has published nine Vacation Bible School programs, each available for purchase at \$150. These programs include: *Lord, Have Mercy* (on Law and Gospel), *In the Name* (on the Holy Trinity), *I Am* (on the 7 I Am's in the Gospel of John), *According to the Scriptures* (on Christ in the Old Testament), *Take up the Cross* (on the baptismal life), *The Remission of Sins* (on Holy Absolution), *Fervent Love for One Another* (on Christian charity), *Five Words of Understanding* (on the ICHTHUS), and introducing *A New Song* (on the songs of Scripture).

Finally, *Pax Domini Press* has available three Sunday School curricula. Like the VBS program, this curriculum is produced for self-publication. One curriculum is entitled, *Teaching them to observe all things*, which takes the student through the entire Gospel of Matthew. Another curriculum is entitled, *A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord*. It follows the Gospels of the Historic Lectionary. Finally, a new curriculum, *The New Song*, teaches Scriptural backgrounds for the texts of the liturgy.

What is included in this sample packet?

Included in this sample packet are a picture of the front cover, brief explanations of the materials given in the kit, lessons from each level (1-4), a sample from the puppet show, and a sample from the daily prayer bulletin, including the hymn.

How does Pax Domini Press's Vacation Bible School program work?

Pax Domini Press produces a CD with all the files needed for a congregation to publish a VBS program. Included on the CD are the following:

1. PDF files of a Program Manual with guidance on program implementation, instructions for the craft, and ideas for recreation time.
2. PDF files of teachers editions of each student workbook.
3. PDF files of workbook pages for the student workbooks.
4. PDF file of chapel bulletin with prayer service for each day of the program.
5. PDF file of puppet show script for use with Level 1 material.
6. PDF files of advertising materials (door hangings, bulletins, bulletin headers)
7. Extra electronic images and PDF files to be used with Level 1 material (coloring pages, activity pages, etc.) or for the craft (patterns, verses, etc.)

With these resources, the congregation simply assembles the workbooks, bulletins, and craft materials. The cost of the VBS can cost anywhere from \$10/child to \$20/child (pending on whether the craft kit is purchased or not, also pending on how the workbooks are assembled).

How do the workbooks work?

The congregation receives a CD with color and black/white PDF files of workbooks for Levels 1-4. The congregation has permission to do whatever it wants with these files. They may do the following:

- (1) Simply print them off for the children (files may print in black and white as well)
- (2) Take them to a printing professional to make booklets for the children
- (3) Advanced copiers/printers may have capabilities to produce booklets from PDF files

**Workbooks can also be ordered through Pax Domini Press for \$6/booklet (color).
Call (419) 475-6140 or go to the website, pax-domini.com.**

What is the age range for this program?

Level 1	Ages 4-5
Level 2	Ages 6-7
Level 3	Ages 8-9
Level 4	Ages 10-12

What is the theme of *A New Song*?

The historic Christian liturgy is one of the greatest treasures we have. It so beautifully confesses a Gospel that is rooted in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the doctrine of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It also teaches the central mission of Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins by His death on the cross. Yet, many people are unaware of its many sublime facets. And being unaware, many Christians are willing to trade this awesome historic gift for modern services that are light in content.

A New Song is a small attempt to help remedy this problem, to help children learn some of foundations for the liturgy. This program will introduce the children to a few of the songs of Scripture that lay down the theology that undergird the liturgy.

Here is a summary of the lessons for the five days:

What is the craft like?

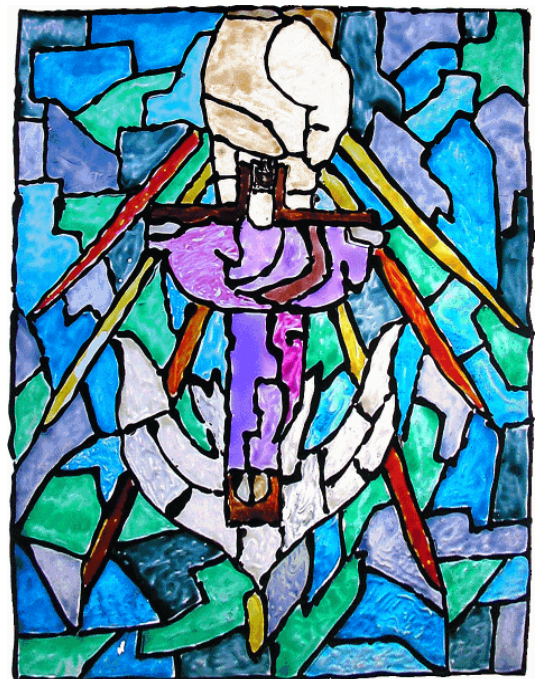
Typical *Pax Domini Press* crafts meet a high standard of materials, meaning, and craftsmanship, requiring strong oversight by craft supervisors. The goal is a craft that engages the child artistically as well as theologically. The craft for *In the Name* fits these qualifications.

The craft for *In the Name* is a set of stained glassed windows, made with three basic ingredients: special stained glass paint (bought at any craft store), lead paint for borders (bought at any craft store), and glass cut to size (bought at any glass supply store). A border or frame made of wood may also complete the craft.

A picture of the craft is given here.

What about worship?

Pax Domini Press provides a worship folder which has a simplified Matins service for each day of the week. In the service are the Matins versicle, a Psalm, a hymn, a reading, a message, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. The



hymn uses original words – five verses summarizing the five lessons of the week – and puts them to the tune of several hymns which may be found in the hymnal.

The words of the hymn written for the program are here given:

What about the pre-schoolers?

The Level 1 material includes a puppet show (which older children may also enjoy) and a story booklet written in simple language. Also included is a teacher's book with suggestions and ideas for songs, games, and activities which will emphasize the theme for the day.

Congregations interested in expanding their program to include 3 year olds may also purchase *Let the Little Children Come unto Me*. This is a "catechism kit" with coloring books and a mini-VBS that teaches the Holy Trinity. See website for more details.

What else does the kit come with?

The kit also comes with recreation ideas. These recreation ideas are activities which incorporate the theme of the VBS. The kit also includes masters for canvassing, posters, and bulletin inserts. Finally, the kit gives some guidance and advice on running a VBS; it includes a check-list of things which must be done 3-4 months prior, 3-4 weeks prior, 3-4 days prior, during the VBS, and after the VBS.

The Holy Trinity

Level 1 Sample

Memory Work

Matthew 28: 19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Introduction

When a Christian is baptized, he is baptized “in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This Name reveals Whom we call “The Holy Trinity.” The Holy Trinity is simply “the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

What does this Name mean? Why do we believe in the Holy Trinity? What does it mean that our God is a Trinity?

Today’s lesson will cover the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. We will learn how to speak of the Trinity. We will see how the Father is related to the Son, the Son to the Holy Spirit, and each Person to the Other.

What’s in a Name?

Look at the following verses and underline the parts of the verse that answer the question:

1.) Why is it important that we know the Name of God?

Romans 10: 13 – For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Psalms 124: 8 – Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Proverbs 18: 10 – The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Micah 4: 5 – For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.

2.) How do we know the Name of God?

John 17: 26 – [Jesus says,] “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”



The Holy Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit



The Name of the Lord in Hebrew

Matthew 28: 19 – [Jesus says,] “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

3.) What does the Name of God do for us?

Luke 24: 47 – ...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...

John 1: 12 – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

John 20: 31 – ...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Life in His Name

In God's Name is Life. How does “the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” give life? To answer this question, just think about the Name of God.

From eternity, the Father has been “begetting” His Son. “Begetting” means that the Father was bringing about the Son. It means that the Father is the Source of the Son's life. We call our dads “father” because he and our mother gave birth to us.

But this does not mean that the Son came after the Father or is younger than Him. No, both the Father and the Son are eternal. None is “older” or “younger” than the other. How can this be? If the Son is from the Father, shouldn't He be “younger” than the Father?

Not necessarily. Think of the sun and the rays of the sun. Which comes first? Which comes from the other? The sun is first and the rays come from the sun. Yet, can it be said that the sun is older than the rays of the sun? No, of course not. As long as there has been a sun, there have been rays from the sun.

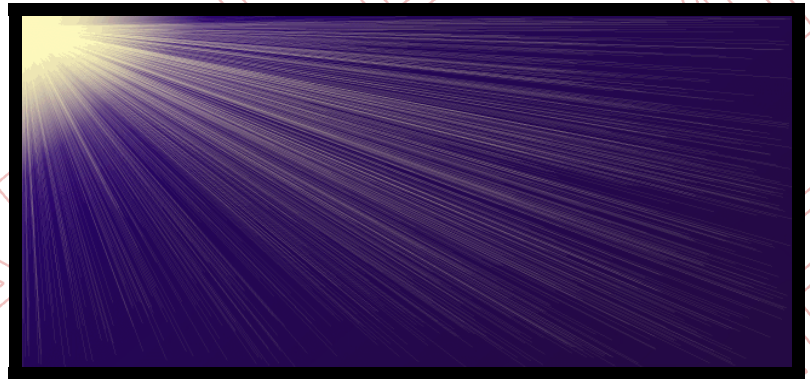
So also with the Father and the Son. The Son is from the Father and finds His source in the Father. We could say that the Son owes His life to the Father. Yes, the Son has been given life from the Father forever and ever, from before the beginning of time, from eternity.

This is great news for us! We know from God's Name that He loves to give life, because He has been doing it forever and ever. When God created the world, He did it simply because He loves to share His life with others. And the Holy Spirit is the One Who gives that life to others.

When we are baptized, then, we take part in the life of God. God gives us life again so that we too may live forever and ever.

One God; Three Persons

As Christians, we believe in One God. How then do we believe in the “Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”? That sounds like three Gods. But it is not. We believe that there are three “Persons” in the Trinity, but



The Rays of the Sun: Which is older, the sun or the rays?

one God. The Father is a Person; the Son is a Person; and the Holy Spirit is a Person.

Each Person of the Trinity is fully God. Each Person is Almighty and eternal. Each Person is called “Lord” and “God.” It’s not as if each Person is 1/3 God. No, each Person is fully 100% God! How can this be explained? It sounds like bad math! $1 + 1 + 1 = 1!!$ This is why we call the doctrine of the Holy Trinity a “mystery.”

When we think of a mystery, we think of detectives, clues, and magnifying glasses. But when we talk about the “mystery of the Holy Trinity,” we don’t mean it this way. We mean that the Trinity does not make sense to our small human minds. We don’t try to “figure it out.” Rather, we simply confess what the Bible says about the Holy Trinity.

Confessing the Faith

Now that we have learned about the Trinity, let’s confess our faith in the Trinity according to the words of the Bible. Divide the following questions up among the students present. Look up the verses about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and see what the passages say about each Person. When all the information is gathered, write out a “confession of faith” based on the verses. What does our confession look like?



The Holy Trinity

- 1.) Read Psalm 121: 2, Psalm 134: 3. What do these passages say the Father has done?
- 2.) Read Matthew 16: 16, John 20: 31, & 1 John 4: 15. What are two other ways of speaking about Jesus?
- 3.) Read Romans 10: 9 and Philippians 2: 11. What do we confess Jesus to be?
- 4.) Read 1 John 4: 2. What must we believe Jesus has done?
- 5.) Read 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4. What else do we believe “first of all” or “of first importance”?
- 6.) Read John 6: 63 & II Corinthians 3: 6. What does the Holy Spirit give?

Now, based on the information gathered by the class, write out a confession of faith:

I believe in God...

And in Jesus...

And in the Holy Spirit....

The Son — His Work

Level 3 Sample

Memory Work

Mark 10: 45 – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”



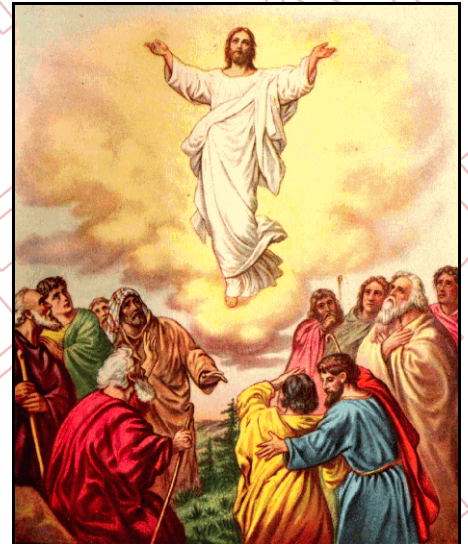
The Humiliation of Christ

Introduction

In the last lesson, we talked about *Who* Jesus is. Today we talk about *what* He did. When we talk about *what* Jesus did, we divide Jesus' life into two parts.

The first part of Jesus' work is called His humiliation. What does it mean to be humiliated? Humiliation means to be humbled. Someone is humiliated when they are brought down low, insulted, or made to feel shame.

The second part of Jesus' work is called His exaltation. What does it mean to be exalted? Exaltation means to be raised or lifted up. Someone is exalted when they are praised, lauded, or glorified.



The Exaltation of Christ

Read the Apostle's Creed. Match each part of the Creed with the Person of Christ, His humiliation, and His exaltation.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Exaltation

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

Person

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.**

Humiliation

From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Answer the following questions.

When did the humiliation of Christ begin and end?

When did the exaltation of Christ begin and end?

Read from Philippians 2: 5-11 and fill in the blanks in the following questions:

[Jesus], being in the form of God...made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and [came] in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him.

1. Jesus was in the form of _____, but made Himself of no _____.
2. Jesus emptied Himself and took the form of a _____.
3. Jesus _____ Himself and became obedient to the point of death.
4. God has highly _____ Jesus and has given Him the name above every name.

The Humiliation

Jesus humbled Himself when He became a man. He is the Son of God, but He took on human flesh. He gave Himself for the sick. He became poor. He even washed the feet of His disciples! He became a servant.

He humbled Himself when He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus could have fought all the soldiers, or He could have jumped off the cross. But He didn't. He humbled Himself so that He could save us from our sins.

Read the following story about the crucifixion of Jesus:

The soldiers took Jesus and gathered around Him. They took off His clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head.

Then they bowed before Him and made fun of Him. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Then they spat on Him and struck Him on the head. After they made fun of Him, they took the robe off Him. They put His own clothes back on and then led Him away to crucify Him.





They came to a place called Golgotha, that is, the Place of the Skull. The soldiers gave Jesus vinegar to drink. When He had tasted it, He would not drink it.

The soldiers watched over Jesus. And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

Some people passed by and made fun of Jesus. They said, "Save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

Likewise the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders made fun of Jesus and said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in

God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Even the robbers who were crucified with Him made fun of Him.

After a few hours, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and then died.

Discussion

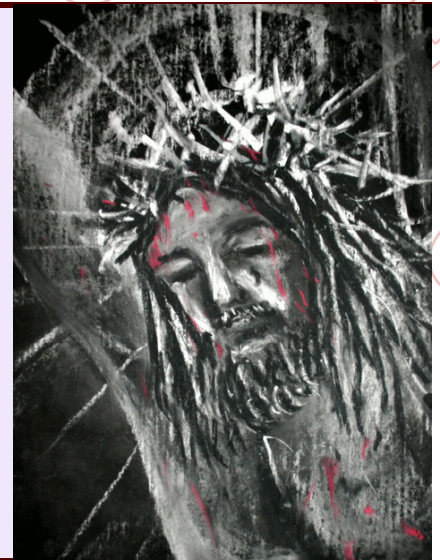
Why was Jesus crucified?

Could Jesus have saved Himself?

Why didn't He save Himself?

Why did people make fun of Jesus? Who hates Jesus more than anyone? Why?

Why did Jesus say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"



The Exaltation

Jesus' exaltation began when He descended into Hell. Then He rose again from the dead. He showed Himself to His disciples for forty days, and then He ascended into heaven. Now, Jesus sits at the Right Hand of the Father.

The exaltation of Jesus does many things for us. Because He is exalted, we too are exalted. We

are exalted when we are baptized.

For each statement, write down whether the statement involves Jesus'... Descent, Resurrection, or Ascension.

_____ Jesus destroyed the power of death and hell.

_____ Jesus is taking our prayers to the Father.

_____ Jesus is preparing a place for us.

_____ Jesus has a new life which He gives us in baptism.

_____ Jesus broke the gates of hell.

_____ We look up where Jesus is at and try to think "high thoughts."

_____ Because Jesus lives, we too shall live forever.



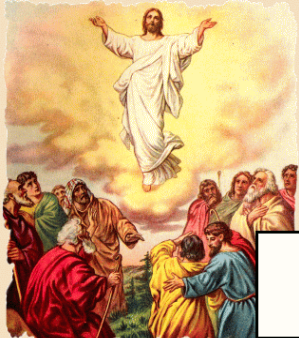



_____ Jesus is up in heaven, but sends His Holy Spirit.

Justification, the Great Gift of Jesus' Work

When Jesus died on the cross, He died for the sins of the whole world. God made Jesus to be sin itself! Meanwhile, we became the righteousness of God. This is what is known as the "Great Exchange." Jesus took our sins, but gave us His righteousness. This is also called "justification." A way to remember what justification means is to say...

**I am justified. God looks at me
"just if I'd" never sinned.**

Put each picture in the order that they occurred, numbing from 1 - 6.

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The Son — His Person

Level 2 Sample

Memory Work

John 1: 1, 14 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.



Introduction

In the last lesson, we learned that the Father made all things. He made all things in six days. Everything God made was good. God also made everything we need to live and enjoy life.

We learned that God the Father made the heavens and the earth. There is also a Son and a Holy Spirit. Today, we learn about the Son of God.

The Son of God is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Sometimes we talk about *Who* Jesus is. Sometimes we talk about *What* Jesus did. Today we learn about *Who* Jesus is.

The Word of God

Jesus is called “the Word of God.” He is the Word of God because by Him God spoke the world to be. Nothing was made without Him. In Him was life. He was with the Father from the very beginning.

The Son of God is eternal. *Eternal* means that He has no beginning and no end. How can Jesus be the Son of God if He is eternal? Aren’t sons younger than their fathers?

Not Jesus! Jesus is the Son of God because He is from the Father. But both the Father and the Son are eternal. This is a wonderful mystery!

Jesus is God just like the Father is God. Jesus is Lord just like the Father is Lord. Jesus is almighty just like the Father is almighty.

Jesus was not always a man with flesh and blood. Before He was born of Mary, He was with the Father from the beginning. But when the time was ready, God sent His Son to be born of Mary. The Son of God came to our world.

The Bible says, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” What does this mean?

Read the following passage about the Word of God:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences:

1. The Word has been around from the _____.
2. The Word was with _____.
3. The Word was _____.
4. The Word became _____ and dwelt among us.

“Jesus” & “Immanuel”

Read the following story about how the Son of God was named “Jesus” and “Immanuel”:

Jesus was born in this way: Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. Before they were married, Mary became pregnant. Joseph knew that he was not the father of the baby!

Joseph thought about divorcing Mary because she had a baby that was not his. But an angel said to Joseph, “Joseph, do not be afraid to marry Mary. She is conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

All this happened to fulfill a prophecy about Jesus: *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,* which is translated, “God with us.”



Answer the following questions:

What does the Name “Jesus” mean?

Why did Joseph want to divorce Mary?

What does the Name “Immanuel” mean?

How is Jesus “God with us”?

In the picture here, find the Father, the Holy Spirit, Mary, and the angel Gabriel. Let the teacher explain the parts of the picture.



Color (or put a large “X”) in each of the false statements with black, and the true statements with bright colors. What object to you see?

Jesus is not God.	Jesus is not a man.	Jesus is younger than the Father.	Jesus is half God and half man.	Jesus became God when He was baptized.
“Jesus” means “God”	“Jesus” means “Anointed One”	“Jesus” means “Savior.”	“Jesus” means “Lord”	“Jesus” means “Virgin Mary”
“Immanuel” means “Man with us”	Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary.	Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit	“Immanuel” means “God with us.”	Jesus suffered under Mary and Joseph
Jesus died but did not really suffer because He is God.	Jesus died and is still dead.	Jesus is true God and true Man	Jesus only died for believers.	Jesus died for good people.
No one saw Jesus when He rose from the dead.	Jesus never rose again.	Jesus rose again after three days.	Jesus rose again after 40 days.	Jesus only rose again in spirit.
Jesus went down to hell to suffer there.	Jesus never went down to hell.	Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the Right Hand of God.	Jesus is in heaven and can't be with us anymore.	Jesus is only with us in spirit, but not body.
Jesus will never come again.	Jesus has no power over the devil.	Jesus is only going to judge Christians.	Jesus is going to send all sinners to hell.	Jesus is going to save only really good people.

What is the meaning of the thing colored with bright colors?

The Father: The Source of All Good Gifts

Level 1 Sample

We worship and glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Trinity.

The Father is Maker of heaven and earth. He made all things visible and invisible. He not only created all things. He still takes care of them.

The Father gives us everything we need to live. He gives us our bodies, our eyes, ears, and brain. He gives us our clothing and shoes. He gives us our food and drink. He gives us our homes, our dads and moms, our brothers and sisters, and animals.

He also defends us against danger. He guards us from all evil.



These things the Father does for us because He is good and His mercy endures forever. The Father

loves us.



The Creation of the World

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

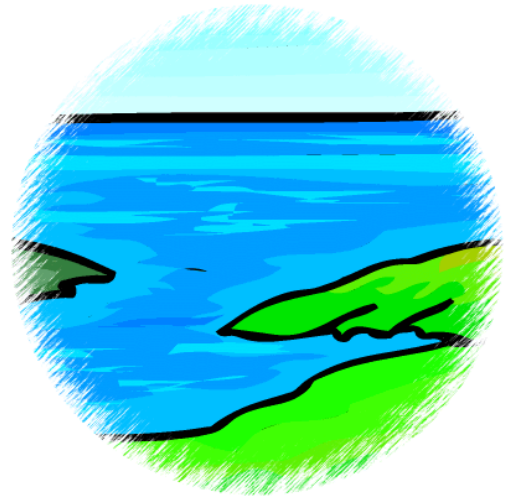
And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. This was the first day.



Then God said, “Let the waters above be divided from the waters below.”

God called everything above “heaven,” and everything below He called “earth.” This was the second day.

Then God said, “Let the waters be divided from the dry land”; and it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.



Then God said, “Let plants and trees and flowers arise from the earth”; and it was so. And God saw that it was good. This was the third day.



Then God said, “Let there be lights in the sky, a sun, a moon, and stars”; and it was so. This was the fourth day.



Then God said, “Let there be fish in the sea and birds in the air;” and it was so. And God saw that it was good. This was the fifth day.

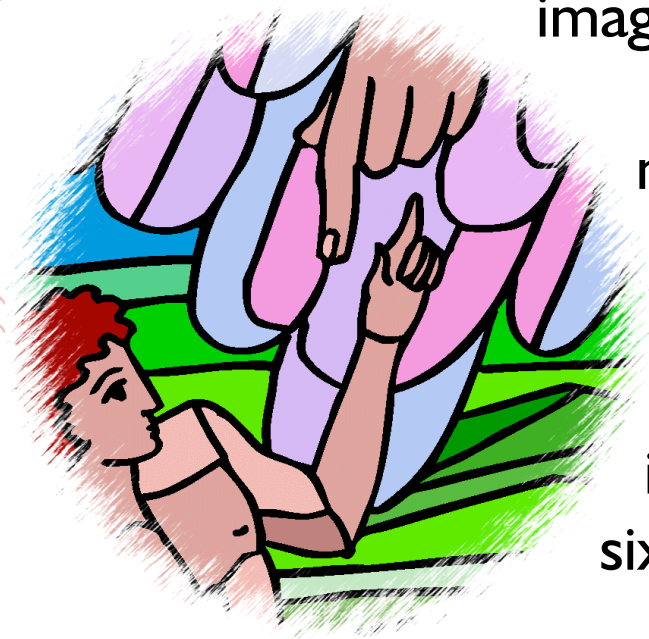
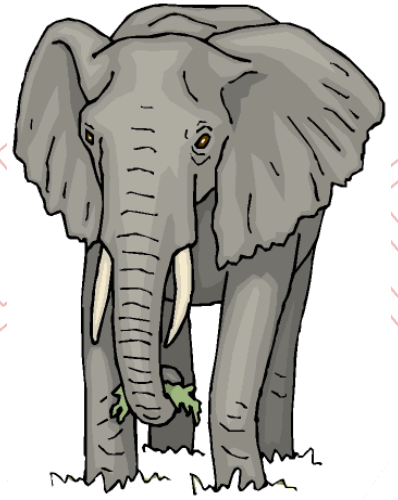


Then God said, "Let there be animals on the dry land"; and it was so.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image."

So God created man in His own image.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. This was the sixth day.



Maker of Heaven and Earth

Sample of a Chapel Service for a Day

Wednesday Prayer

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Children: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.

from Psalm 2

Pastor: Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.

Children: I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Pastor: Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.'

Children: Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

Pastor: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn *God the Father be Our Stay* [back page]

Scripture Reading Matthew 1: 18-23

The Apostles' Creed [back page]

Message *The Person of Jesus Christ*

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sample of a Chapel Service for a Day

God the Father, be our Stay

God the Father, be our Stay; When hell's powers assail us;
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, Nor in our last hour fail us.
Keep us from the Evil One; Firm in the faith abiding,
In Christ our Savior hiding, And heartily confiding.
Let us put God's armor on, With all true Christians running
Our heavenly race, and shunning The devil's wiles and cunning.
Amen, Amen, this be done; So sing we Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ be Thou our Stay; When hell's powers assail us;
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, Nor in our last hour fail us.
Keep us from the Evil One; Firm in the faith abiding,
In Christ our Savior hiding, And heartily confiding.
Let us put God's armor on, With all true Christians running
Our heavenly race, and shunning The devil's wiles and cunning.
Amen, Amen, this be done; So sing we Hallelujah!

Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay; When hell's powers assail us;
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, Nor in our last hour fail us.
Keep us from the Evil One; Firm in the faith abiding,
In Christ our Savior hiding, And heartily confiding.
Let us put God's armor on, With all true Christians running
Our heavenly race, and shunning The devil's wiles and cunning.
Amen, Amen, this be done; So sing we Hallelujah!

(Words from *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnbook*; St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1918; pp. 275-276)

Sample of Puppet Show Script

Day One – The Holy Trinity

[Jessie is sitting off to the side preoccupied, ravaging away at a bone, making savage-like noises. Nickolai comes up from behind and tries to get Jessie's attention.]

Nickolai: Hey! ... Hey! ... Hey you! ... Dog! ... Hund! [Ger. HOOND] ... Perro! [Sp. PAY-r-r-r-o] ... Chien! [Fr. Shee-AWN] ... Cane! [It. CAH-nay]... Answer me!

Jessie: Huh?

N: It's me, black dog, turn around!

J: Oh, is someone calling me? [Returns to gnawing at bone.]

N: Yeah, I am!

J: Hmph, for a moment I thought someone was trying to call me.

N: [Nickolai goes up to Jessie, grabs her and shakes her.] Why won't you answer me when I call?!! I need you for something.

J: Well why didn't you tell me you needed me!

N: I did! What do you think I was doing for the last five minutes. Calling you. Yelling at you. Screaming at you!

J: Oh, you were screaming at *me*? How was I supposed to know you were calling *me* and trying to get *my* attention?

N: I don't get it. I called you. I called you loud and clear.

J: Yeah, you could have been calling anyone. But you forgot to say one little word that would have gotten my attention. Do you know what that word is?

N: Ummm, how 'bout... [screaming in her ear] WAKE UP!

J: Ow, my ear!! No, that would have only made me haul off and slug ya! Try again, fur ball.

N: Hmmmm, ok, how 'about... [faking niceness] Hey, you sweet, beautiful, sleek, shiny, fine doggy, can I speak with you for a moment.

J: Hey, I like that. But how do I know you're saying those words about ME? Try again.

N: I'm confused. One little word that will get your attention. Oh, I know...PLEEEEEEEEEASE.

J: Yeah, that normally is the magic word. But not now. C'mon, Nickolai...Nickolai...NICKOLAI...NICK...O...LAI...Maybe the kids can help you out.

J: [Addressing children] What one word did Nickolai have to say to get my attention? Shout out some answers.

[When someone says, "your name," Jessie continues...]

J: That's right! All Nickolai would have had to do was call my name, and I would have turned around and seen him, and he could talk with me.

N: Didn't I call your name?

J: No, you called "Hey." You called me "black dog." You even called me "dog" in four different languages. But you could have been calling ANY dog. And, eh hem, I'm not just any dog.

N: I guess that makes sense. Your name.... You know, a name is a real handy little thing, isn't it!

J: Yes it is.

N: Let me ask you something, Jessie.

J: What?

N: What about God? Does God have a Name? I mean, if people only answer when you call their name, will God only answer if you call Him by Name?

J: That's an excellent question, Nickolai. That's the theme of this week's Vacation Bible School. God most certainly does have a Name. This week we're going to learn what that Name is.

N: But isn't His Name just "God."

J: Not really. He is God, but there are lots of gods claiming to be the true God.

Have you ever heard of “Allah”? Or “Buddha”? Or “Vishnu”? These are all other gods that claim to be the true God.

N: Hmmm, I thought if you can call God any name you want, he’ll still hear you.

J: I’m sorry, what did you say, Bob? I didn’t quite understand you, Spot. You have to repeat yourself, Dietrich.

N: Huh?! Why are you calling me all those names? My name’s not Bob, or Spot, or Dietrich. It’s Nickolai. You should call me “Nickolai.”

J: Well, if YOU don’t like to be called other names, why would God want to be called “Allah”, “Buddha”, or “Vishnu”?

N: Ohhhh, I get it. God has a Name He has told us about. And we should always call upon THAT Name, and not some other.

J: Yes, that’s what God tells us in the first and second commandments. Let’s see if any of the kids know the first and second commandments. Kids?

[A teacher or worship leader should engage the students and come up with the first two commandments.]

J: Yup, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” And “Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.” That means that there’s only one God, and He has a Name that we should call upon.

N: OK, OK, I get it now. But don’t leave me in suspense! What is God’s Name???

J: Let’s see if the kids can help us out here as well. Kids, do you know what God’s Name is? Where was God’s Name given to you? When did God put His Name on you? When did that happen?

[The answer is “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” “Jesus” is also good, but the ultimate answer should lead to the Baptismal Name.]

J: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Their Name is the Name that we were baptized into. When we call upon that Name, God promises that He will help us, protect us, and take care of us. That’s a powerful Name. And that’s what we’re all going to learn about this week.