

Jesus Is God's Son

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 6, ages 4-5

Lesson 6 Goal

- Your child will learn that “Father,” “Son,” and “Holy Spirit” are names of God.

Key Points

- The Holy Trinity is one God.
- There is one God in three Divine Persons, called God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



Parent Reflection

God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We understand these Three Divine Persons of the Trinity as working in concert, and being one, but yet also having distinct roles. We traditionally think of God the Father as the Creator, God the Son as the “Word made flesh” who lived among us and sacrificed himself for us, and God the Spirit as the sanctifier, the one who dwells within us. He makes us holy through the gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (CCC, 1831). The one God in three Divine Persons is the most fundamental concept of our faith, and yet it is a mystery that we will not fully comprehend in our lifetime on earth.

It is important, however, that as we grow, we are not continuing to carry a young child’s understanding of the nature of God. Just as we grow in our understanding of other complex aspects of life, we can mature in our grasp of who God is. God intends for us to grow ever closer to him through study of Scripture and Church teaching, and through our experience of God in prayer, the sacraments, and the Christian community, which also forms a unique image of God as the “Body of Christ.”

Reflection Question

How has my understanding of God changed over the years? In what ways do I still seek to grow in this understanding?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- ❑ Family Activity Sheet
- ❑ crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ❑ three-in-one objects for your child to find, such as a shamrock plant, a vase of flowers with one stem and three flowers, a tree branch with three leaves
- ❑ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather to-

gether a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- ❑ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- ❑ Hide the three-in-one objects in the dramatic play area, in a variety of places.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: *“Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”*

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, *“Now we will learn about the prayer called the Sign of the Cross. We call this prayer the Sign of the Cross because we trace the shape of the cross on us as we say it.”*

Show your child, how you make the Sign of the Cross, slowly, from forehead to heart, from shoulder to shoulder.

Say, *“This is a very holy sign. It helps us think about God. Sometimes we use it to help us start or end our other prayers. Sometimes it helps us just feel that God is near. Let’s make this holy sign together.”*

Model the gesture slowly, again making a big cross, not a hasty, “scrunched” one.

Say, *“The Sign of the Cross helps us to gather ourselves, because we touch our heads and our hearts, our thinking and feeling, and then our arms, which we use to take in everything in life.”*

Model it again while praying the words.

Have your child repeat the words with you. Then have him or her pray the words and make the gestures together. Repeat.

Say, *“Now we will make the Sign of the Cross to lead us into our closing prayer. Let us pray.”*

Begin in prayer:

“Dear God, you are with us today. We will learn that you have many names. You love us in many ways. We praise you for your goodness. Amen.”

Close by praying the Sign of the Cross together.

Discovering

The Baptism of Jesus. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus’ Baptism.

Tell a story about your child’s day of baptism.

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Meeting Baby Jesus. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Three-in-One Symbols Hunt. Encourage your child to look for the three-in-one objects. Explain to him or her to come and tell you when one is found.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Patrick of Ireland. Show your child the picture of Saint Patrick on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Patrick to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ What did Saint Patrick use to help people understand that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? (*A shamrock*)

▶ Patrick taught many people that God loved them. What are some ways that show us how God loves us?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Patrick using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross together. Pray aloud with your child:

"Dear God, you have many names. You love us in many ways, too. Please bless everyone and keep us safe. Amen."

Saint Patrick of Ireland

Teaching about the Trinity

Long ago in Ireland, a boy named Patrick took care of other people's sheep. Patrick stayed in the hills with the sheep, even when it was snowy or rainy or windy or dark.

Patrick had no people to talk to. He knew we could always talk to God, no matter where we are, so that is what he did. He prayed to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Patrick loved the sheep and the hills, the trees and clouds and flowers, but he loved God best of all.

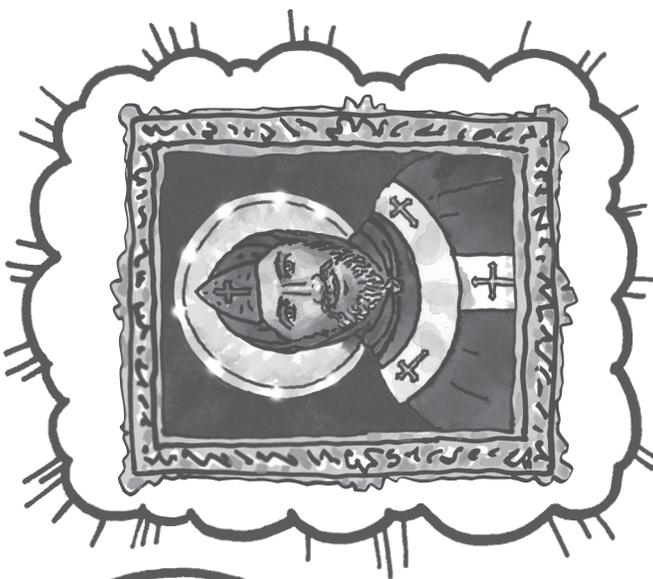
When Patrick got older, he became a priest and a teacher. He told many people about God. They had questions.

One person said, "You say there is one God, but you also say God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. That's three!"

Patrick looked down and saw a shamrock, a plant that had three leaves on one stem. He picked it. "See this shamrock? It is one plant, but there are three side-by-side leaves on one stem, just as there is one God, but three names for God."

Patrick went on teaching about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Because God made Patrick such a good teacher, many people came to learn from him and to love God.

DRAW



**Saint
Patrick,
pray for us!**