

TRINITY ASSEMBLY

Resources: A Large box containing:

God the Father

- Crown - King
- Flock of Sheep picture - Good Shepherd
- Eagle picture - Mother Eagle
- Rock picture - Rock in times of trouble
- Sword - Almighty
- Robe - Lord

God the Son

- Lamb puppet - The Lamb of God
- Bible - the Word
- Fishing net - Fisher of Men
- Loaf of bread - Bread of Life
- Grapes - the Vine
- Hen Picture - Mother Hen

Holy Spirit

- Dove
- Fire
- An ear - Wise Counsellor
- Windmill - Wind
- Bottle of oil - oil
- A stick - prodder

Lots of scarves knotted together at the bottom of the box.

Talk

Today we are going to be thinking about what the Trinity is, I know you've been doing some lessons on this in RE.

Today I have brought you the Trinity in a box! It's a nice box, not too big or too heavy, just the right size to contain the Trinity. Things are so much easier to understand if you can put them in a box, aren't they?

Who can tell me the first part of the Trinity? (*Pick a child to give you the answer*). Yes, that's right it's God the Father. Well, God the Father is straight forward isn't it, we all know what a Father is, this Trinity business is a piece of cake!

Let me just look in my box and check all is OK. (*Look in box*). Ah, it might not be quite that straight forward after all, you see apparently God the Father isn't just God the Father, sometime God is also known as a King. I've got a crown here, who would like to be God the King? (*Choose a child and put the crown on their head and keep them at the front*).

No problem so we now have God the Father as King, good. (*Look in box*). Hang on now there's a sword in here, oh yes, sometimes God the Father is also known as the Almighty, which means all powerful, a person who can do anything. (*Choose a child, give them the sword and keep them at the front*).

Now that should be it, (look in box), that's odd there's a rock in here, why is there a rock? (*Pick up rock*), crumbs this is heavy! You see God is often called a rock in the Bible, because they are so hard or even impossible to move, you can rely on a Rock like you can rely on God. Whose going to be the rock? (*Choose a child, give them the rock and keep them at the front*).

Hang on there's some noises coming from the box now, a squawking and some bah-ing . Now how did these get in here, we've got a flock of sheep and an eagle! Well yes I guess God is often called the Good Shepherd, so I suppose a flock of sheep makes sense, but did you know God is also a Mother eagle, you don't want to get on the wrong side of her, she'll protect her children with that sharp beak and talons! *(Choose two children, give them the flock and eagle and keep them at the front).*

(Look in box).

Well that seems to be it for God the Father. Let's see who can tell me the next part of the Trinity? *(Pick a child to give you the answer)* Yes it's God the Son, that should be much easier, we know it's Jesus, surely Jesus can't be other things too?!

(Look in box).

What's this? *(Pull out the Bible)* It's a Bible, what's that doing in there, I was looking for Jesus, OK he is in the Bible but only in the New Testament. Or was he? He is sometimes known as the Word which was in the beginning, that began the whole of creation and then later became flesh and blood as Jesus. So I suppose he is in all the Bible. *(Choose a child, give them the bible and keep them at the front).*

Hang on, I can hear bah-ing again and splashing too this time! *(Take out Lamb puppet and fishing net).* Another lamb and a fishing net. We know Jesus liked to fish, who can remember the story about what Jesus wanted the fishermen to fish for? *(Pick a child to give you the answer, you may have more difficulty getting the 'correct' answer this time)* Yes that's right Jesus wanted them to come with him and fish for men. Who would like to be Jesus the fisherman? *(Choose a child, give them the net and keep them at the front).*

Now why have I got another lamb, does anyone know the name Jesus gave himself when he talked about his death? *(Pick a child to give you the answer, you may have more difficulty getting the 'correct' answer this time)* He said that he was the lamb that needed to be sacrificed. *(Choose a child, give them the lamb and keep them at the front).*

More noise, a clucking? *(Pull out the hen)* Now this is getting ridiculous, Jesus is also a mother hen gathering in all her chicks? *(Choose a child, give them the hen and keep them at the front).*

(Look in box). Ooh, this looks good, bread and a grape vine. We all know that Jesus called himself the bread of life and described his body as the bread broken for us. He also called himself the vine and we are the branches of the vine plant. *(Choose two children, give them the bread and vine, keep them at the front)*

(Look in box).

That seems to be it for Jesus, he was a bit more complicated than I was expecting. The problem is we've now got onto the really tricky part of the Trinity, who can tell me which part is left? *(Pick a child to give you the answer)*

Can anyone tell me some way that the Holy Spirit is sometimes pictured and I can then see if it's in my box? *(Pick a child to give you the answer, most likely either dove, wind or fire)*

Here is a dove, the Holy Spirit appeared above Jesus as a dove when he was baptised. *(Choose a child and give them the dove, keep them at the front)*

Here is a flame, like the flames that appeared above the followers of Jesus' heads at Pentecost. *(Choose a child, give them the flame, keep them at the front)*

Here is the wind, that blew around the followers of Jesus and helped them speak all sorts of languages at Pentecost. *(Choose a child, give them the flame, keep them at the front)*

(Look in box).

Oh, that's odd there's an ear in here! Why is there a listening ear? Is it because the Holy Spirit is the part of God that speaks to us now, tells us what to do and gives us wise counsel? It's sometimes hard to listen to, so maybe that's why it's such a big ear! *(Choose a child, give them the flame, keep them at the front)*

Now, I did spot something else in my box, which seemed a bit odd, but maybe makes more sense now *(pull out stick)*. There's a prodding stick in here because sometimes we are too scared to do what the Holy Spirit has asked us to do and so sometimes we need the Holy Spirit to be the prodder to make us do the right or scary thing. *(Choose a child, give them the stick, keep them at the front)*

Is that it? *(Look in box)*. Pull out the oil. Why is this in here, what song do we sing about the Holy Spirit that involves oil? *(Pick a child to give you the answer)* Yes, Give me Oil in my Lamp, keep me burning. That song is all about the Holy Spirit keeping us going in our faith. *(Choose a child, give them the oil, keep them at the front)*

(Look around the group of children at the front). There's a lot more to the Trinity than I thought, now would you mind all just getting into the box, you all look a bit messy up here? It might be a bit of a squash!

(Shake your head). No, this isn't going to work, at all. Just sit down whilst I try to figure this out, make yourselves into a nice semi-circle so everyone can see you.

Why is it that there are so many different ways that we see God? Each part of the Trinity has all sorts of different names and identities, it doesn't make sense if we just think about God as different people or identities. You see God isn't about pictures and identities, God is about relationships.

(Pull the first part of the scarf 'rope' out of the box and hand it to one end of the semi-circle of children, as you talk keep handing out the 'rope' to all the children in the semi-circle and to other children in the assembly)

You see God wants to have a relationship with each of us, sometimes we may need to be like a parent to us, a mother or father, at other times we may need to have God the rock someone we can hold onto when things get difficult, at other times we may need to understand the sacrifice that God made in Jesus and need to think about the lamb, or we may need to think about where our lives are and need to listen to the wise words of the Holy Spirit. God is not limited to being one way, God adapts to meet our needs and help us to live our lives in the right way. What God wants more than anything else is to be in relationship with us, and for us to be in good relationship with those around us.

If you look at all the different scarves that we are holding no two are the same, but each is beautiful in its own way and each scarf is linked to all the other scarves. None of us will see God in the same way, but each of us can know God, can be touched by God and experience a relationship with God, in the many different faces of the Trinity. The Trinity is not something to be kept in a box but something to be lived every day of our lives.