

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 4

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Trusting in God's presence leads us to look for guidance in his Word. (CCC, 215-216)
- God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us know him and guide us to him. (CCC, 238-248, 261)
- The love among members of the Trinity is a model for human affection and bonds and is the source of God's loving plan. (CCC, 221, 255-260)
- The total union of the Trinity is a mystery that can never be totally understood by the human mind, but can be approached through faith. (CCC, 253-254, 263)
- Grace is a loving gift from God and a sharing in his divine life. (CCC, 759, 1999)

Catechist Background

"You loved me before the foundation of the world.... I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."—John 17:24, 26

Reflect What makes it possible that the love that God has for his Son is also the love that is in each of us?

By belonging to a Church with a highly developed liturgical life, we may discover that sometimes we take our rituals for granted, especially those that we participate in from memory. Take, for example, the Nicene Creed that we recite every Sunday. The Creed is a magnificent, incredible, and truly radical statement of Trinitarian faith. How would we sound on Sunday if we truly proclaimed the words we were reciting? Professing the core of our Catholic beliefs with passion and meaning can energize our spirits and remind us to live out what we say we truly believe.

We profess belief in one God in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons created, redeemed, and continue to sanctify and inspire us. This is a mystery we accept as an article of faith. While we cannot completely understand the Trinity, we must embrace it as truth if we are to appreciate the unique character of Christianity. Like our Jewish and Islamic brothers and sisters, we believe in one God, but what distinguishes us is our understanding of that God as an eternal community of divine Persons. Everything we, as Christians, hold to be true flows from our understanding of the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Reflect How do the different relationships in your own life help you to better understand the individual Persons in the Holy Trinity?

Catechist's Prayer

Dear God, I worship you with my whole being. Help me to always hold you in my heart as I teach. May your love and truth ever be the cornerstone of my catechesis. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

The doctrine of the Trinity, One God in three Divine Persons, is difficult to grasp for all of us. It is a mystery that we know by faith. Seventh-graders are a little more comfortable with this mystery than younger children, but they might still struggle to wrap their minds around how God can be one and also three at the same time.

Teaching Tip

We can better understand the mystery of the Trinity in terms of the relationships in our own lives. Help the young people explore their own relationships with family members, friends, and others. Lead them in a discussion on the joys, challenges, and responsibilities that flow from those relationships.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

Young people still understand God primarily through the lens of their own lived experience, especially those experiences in their family of origin, their prayer life, and the world around them.

- At this age, the youth are expanding their imagery of God. They are beginning to identify with God in different ways as they attempt to understand him more.
- It is essential to teach young adolescents about the Holy Trinity and how the love that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit share is a model for our own relationships.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is “known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer” (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Education for Community Life

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Communal Life

- Objective: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Catholic Faith Literacy

faith, grace, Holy Trinity

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Frances of Rome on page 100. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 100, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 4 for the prayer on page 101.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - Instrumental music, Live, Page 101

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 4

Invite Page 91

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Ask the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross.

Pray the leader prayer, including the Psalm.

Invite the youth to repeat the words from the Psalm verse, then close with the group response. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Explain that the desire deep inside every human heart is to know the truth about God.

Say: The Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—is a perfect communion of love. Because of our Baptism, you and all of the members of the Church, past and present, are a part of this love.

† Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: While we can't fully understand the breadth of God's love, it is wondrous to reflect upon the truth that the God who is love, shares his very life and love with us.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 94-95

Objectives

- Understand the need to trust in God's presence and look for guidance in his Word
- Recall that God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us find our way to him
- Discover how the Holy Spirit acts as Guide and Counselor for the Catholic Church

God is Always There

Ask: Who do you turn to when you have problems? **Possible answers: friends, parents, siblings, other trusted adults**

Read aloud the text.

- Add God to the list, emphasizing that God is always there for us.

God Takes the First Step

Direct the young people to silently read the next three paragraphs.

- Ask volunteers to recap the important points in this section.

Go to the Source

After reviewing Help from Heaven on page 95, have the youth look up Matthew 28:16–20 to read about Jesus' commissioning of the Apostles. Discuss the questions.

Help from Heaven

Invite four volunteers to each read aloud one of the paragraphs in this section. Remind the group that we become members of God's family through Baptism, and through faith, we can believe in and rely on God.

- Ask the young people to share what they have been told about their own Baptism.
- Suggest that they talk about things such as when and where they were baptized, who their godparents are, who attended, and so on. Invite them to share whether they still have any mementos from their Baptism.
- Have a volunteer read aloud the definition for *faith*.

Invite a group discussion on the ways each Person of the Trinity works in our lives.

† Scripture Background

Matthew 28:16–20

This passage from Matthew is also known as The Great Commission.

- Scholars believe these words were used in Matthew's community, and that they point to the union of the person with the community and with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit through Baptism.
- The passage is also known for its clear expression of the Trinitarian understanding of God and for its emphasis on the teachings of Jesus as the standard for moral conduct.

Activity

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the directions and the questions.

- Allow the youth time to answer the two questions.
- Encourage them to share their answers with a partner.

Quick Review

We should trust in God's presence and look to his Word for guidance. God the Father sent his Son to save us and the Holy Spirit to be our Guide. Each Person of the Holy Trinity helps us find our way to God.

Discover (2) Pages 96-97

Objectives

- Describe how the Persons of the Holy Trinity relate to one another and with humanity
- Explain how the love among the members of the Trinity is a model for human affection and bonds
- Explore how the Persons of the Holy Trinity are distinct yet share total union

Teaching Activity: The Source of All Love

Participants create red felt hearts that symbolize God the Father's love. Volunteers will use a chute to send God the Father's love back and forth to one another to demonstrate the nature of the Holy Trinity.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✧ Go to the Discover section of the online lesson planner at aliveinchrist.osv.com to download the Persons of the Trinity pages and the Catholic Faith Words page.
red felt, cotton, sewing needle and thread, clear printing labels, 3 baseball caps, 3 mail tubes or poster board, tape, 2 containers

Preparation

- Post the Persons of the Trinity pages and the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cut out 4 pieces (3x3) of red felt for each participant. Cut each piece into a heart shape.
- Print multiple copies of the following words on clear labels: free, unconditional, sacrificial, life-giving, eternal
- Label each of the baseball caps with one of the Divine Persons of the Holy Spirit: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Create chutes out of mailing tubes or rolled up poster board

Activity Directions

Begin the activity by asking each participant to create two felt hearts filled with cotton. Have them sew together each heart using a needle and thread. Distribute the clear printed labels and ask the participants to choose the words they would like to place on their hearts. Ask them to affix the labels onto their felt hearts and collect all of the hearts in an empty container.

Choose three volunteers to wear the baseball caps representing each member of the Holy Trinity.

Point out the definition of the *Holy Trinity* from the Catholic Faith Words page that is on the board.

Give the container of hearts to the volunteer wearing the hat that is labeled God the Father. Ask the volunteer wearing the Holy Spirit cap to hold a mail tube or rolled up poster board like a chute. Ask the volunteer wearing the God the Son cap to hold an empty container to receive the hearts that will be poured down the chute.

Introduce each Person of the Trinity by reading the descriptions from the Persons of the Trinity pages that you have posted on the board.

Ask the volunteers to begin the process by having God the Father “send” his love to God the Son by sending the hearts down the chute. Ask the volunteers to continue sending the hearts back and forth to one another.

Say: God the Father sends his love to God the Son who perfectly receives it and returns it to the Father. This is the nature of the Holy Trinity within itself. Saint Augustine names God the Father as the source of all love. He names God the Son as the Beloved and God the Holy Spirit as the love that flows between the Father and the Son. This love among the Trinity is a model for the connections, affection, and bonds we can make with one another. Our families, schools, and groups of friends can mirror the unity of the Trinity.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 4: Trinity Tales** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 98-99

Objectives

- Discover how the nature of the Holy Trinity is the source of God’s loving plan
- Define *grace* as God’s free gift and sharing in his divine life
- Examine how humans journey into deeper truth, wisdom, and love in relationship with God

Point out the question at the top of the page. Tell the group that this is the main focus of this section.

God's Plan for Us

Invite a strong reader to read all three paragraphs in this section.

- Ask the rest of the group to offer examples of God's plan as they understand it.
- Discuss some of the things that can make it difficult to feel God's presence.
- Point out the definition for *grace*.

Home Is Where the Heart Is

Select a volunteer to read the two paragraphs, on pages 98 and 99, to the group. Continue reviewing the content of this section with the group. Arrange the young people in two groups. Assign each group one of the questions at the end of the text.

- Encourage the groups to discuss their question.
- Listen in on each group and provide encouragement and feedback.
- Ask a spokesperson from each group to share their thoughts.

Activity

Have the youth read the instructions and complete the activity individually.

- If time allows, review as a group the words or phrases they came up with.

In Summary

Have three volunteers each read one of the summary bullet points.

Discuss what the young people can learn when they look to the Holy Trinity as a model for their own relationships with others and with God

Live Pages 100-101

Objectives

- Review the Sign of the Cross and what it means
- Explore the faith life of Saint Frances of Rome
- Offer the prayer to reflect on the Trinity

Our Catholic Life

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this section.

Have the young people work in groups of two or three to discuss how they would explain the Sign of the Cross to someone who is not Catholic.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Frances of Rome gave up her time, talent, and treasure to help those in need.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share with the group the story from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to join you in a prayer of thanksgiving for the opportunities God has given us to help others.

Here are some additional details about Saint Frances to assist you in presenting this section:

- Saint Frances loved the Roman people so much that she stepped out of the social boundaries of the time to help those in need.
- During a time of disease and famine, Frances and her sister-in-law went out with corn, wine, oil, and clothing from their family's possessions. Her father-in-law tried to stop them, but a miracle happened. The family's empty corn loft and empty wine cask were suddenly full.

Activity

Point out the activity on page 100.

- Give the youth time to reflect on and respond to the prompt.

Prayer of Adoration

♥ Ask for four volunteers to serve as leader and readers.

- Give the youth a few minutes to read over their assigned passages. Remind them to read slowly and reverently.
- Set up a prayer table and place on it symbols of the Trinity and a Bible.
- Ask the youth to gather around the prayer table and begin the prayer. Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.
- Close by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

► Play instrumental music, downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**, to open and close the celebration.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 4 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
God Is Trinity Page 91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 25:5 Pray the opening prayer. John 17:24–26 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
God Is Always There pp. 94–95 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the need to trust in God’s presence and look for guidance • Recall that God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us find our way to him • Discover how the Holy Spirit acts as Guide and Counselor for the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about God’s daily guidance. • Share Baptism stories. Read Matthew 26:16–20. • Explain the ways that the Trinity works in our lives. • Activity Discuss personal relationships with God. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Bible
Three in One pp. 96–97 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the Persons of the Holy Trinity relate to one another and us • Explain how the love among the members of the Trinity is a model for human affection and bonds • Explore how the Persons of the Trinity are distinct yet share total union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Send God the Father’s love back and forth to one another to demonstrate the nature of the Holy Trinity. • Activity Master Trinity Titles 	Persons of the Trinity, Catholic Faith Words, Activity Master 4 <input type="checkbox"/> sewing supplies, cotton, red felt, baseball caps, mail tubes, containers, tape
God’s Plan for Us pp. 98–99 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover how the nature of the Trinity is the source of God’s loving plan • Define <i>grace</i> as God’s free gift and sharing in his divine life • Examine how humans journey into deeper truth, wisdom, and love in relationship with God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how the Trinity works and how we fit into God’s plan. • Explain how faith and grace help our relationship with God. • Activity Review what it means to give our mind and heart to God. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Frances of Rome. • Activity Consider how God shows his love and care during life’s challenges. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Reflect on the Trinity Page 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for four volunteers to serve as readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	Instrumental music

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

faith, Holy Trinity, grace

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 102

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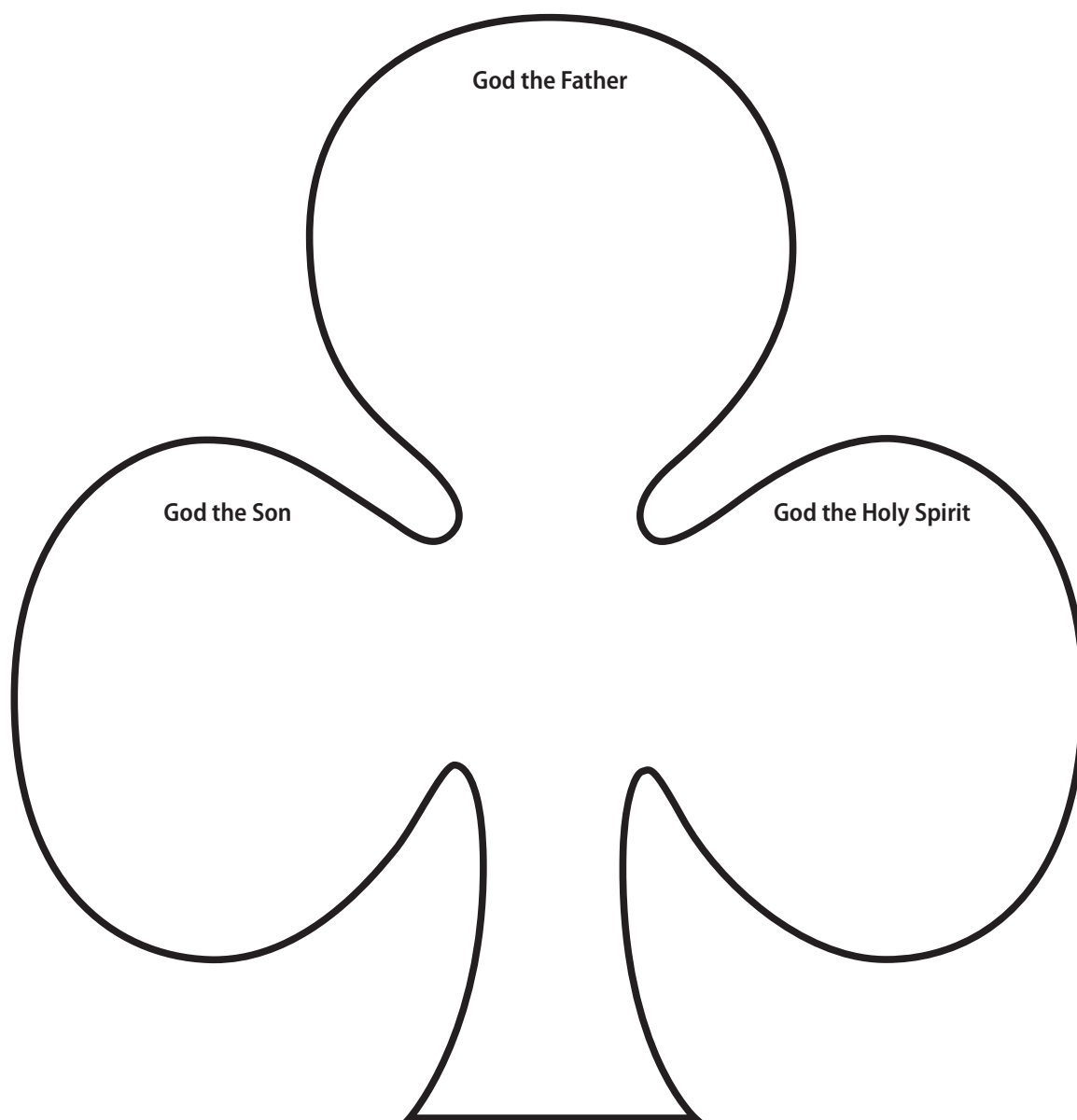
Name _____

Date _____

Trinity Titles

Your teacher will assign you to one of three groups. Each group will create a list of titles for one Divine Person of the Trinity. (For example: God the Son is also known as Jesus. The Holy Spirit is also called Counselor.) After the lists have been completed, have a spokesperson from your group present your list to the rest of the class. Ask if anyone has any additional titles to add.

Write some of the titles that you particularly relate to in the shamrock below.



Name _____

Date _____

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

1. God has offered us the free gift of ____ so that we can share in his life.
 - a. love
 - b. hope
 - c. grace
 - d. courage
2. When we are baptized, we become members of God's family, the _____.
 - a. Holy Trinity
 - b. Church
 - c. baptized
 - d. confirmed
3. Faith is a belief or trust in God and the things he has revealed to us; it is both a gift from God and a _____.
 - a. Sacrament
 - b. free choice
 - c. Mark of the Church
 - d. sacrifice
4. Jesus asked the Apostles to go and make ____ of all nations.
 - a. brothers and sisters
 - b. fathers
 - c. disciples
 - d. friends

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

5. The _____ is the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
6. The _____ between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is central to the mystery of the Trinity.
7. The _____ is a counselor for the Church.
8. Christ established the _____ through the Apostles.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. In God's plan for us, how do our best and most loving family and community relationships resemble the relationships of the Holy Trinity?

10. Explain how the gift of faith can be like a compass.

The Father is God, the First Divine Person of the Trinity, who brings everything into existence by the Son through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ the Son is God,
the Second Divine Person of
the Trinity, who was sent by
the Father and became man.

The Holy Spirit is also God,
the Third Divine Person of the
Trinity, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son.

Catholic Faith Words

Holy Trinity the mystery of one God in three
Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.