

EPIC Cycle 4 – Understanding the Trinity

How to have a student-led club:

- Welcome everyone and open in prayer
- Explain what First Priority is (a Christian group, but you do not have to be a Christian to attend)
- Start with a quick icebreaker (idea: ask everyone to say their favorite athlete/sport)
- Ask everyone to download the First Priority of Tampa Bay phone app
- Assign someone to report weekly attendance on the phone app
- Assign someone to send meeting reminders to the group
- Close in prayer

Memory Verse: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all". 2 Corinthians 13:14

EQUIP- Week 1

The Bible talks about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, collectively known as the "Trinity". This week, we will look at verses to help us understand that each person of the Trinity is a part of God and with a distinct role.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read about God's creation of people: "God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Questions:

- A. Why does God refer to himself in the plural?
- B. Why is this significant?

2. In **Corinthians 13:14** we read: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And in **Matthew 28:19** we read: So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

- A. In Corinthians 13:14, what does each person of the trinity provide (hint: Jesus provides grace) and why is this important?
- B. Why is each person of the trinity referred to individually (instead of collectively)?

3. The Trinity may be difficult to explain to someone else. Some give the example of H₂O: water, steam, and ice. All of these are water but in different forms. This is not a perfect example but it gives you an idea.

Questions:

- A. How would you explain the Trinity to another person?
- B. Do you believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one in God?
- C. How does this week's lesson EQUIP you to follow God?

Challenge: Pray for a friend who needs to know Jesus.

PREPARE- Week 2 God the Spirit

Last week, we talked about the Trinity- the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- each is a part of God and with a distinct role. This week, we will talk about the role of the Son, Jesus Christ.

1. In **John 1:18** we read: No one has ever seen God. The only Son is the one who has shown us what God is like. He is himself God and is very close to the Father.

Questions:

- A. Who is the only Son?
- B. Based on what you know about the Trinity, why hasn't anyone seen God before?
- C. How has Jesus shown us what God is like?

2. In **1 John 4:14**, the Apostle John talks about Jesus, whom he and the other apostles knew personally: "We have seen and can testify [witness; proclaim] that the Father sent his Son to be [or as] the Savior of the world. And in **Galatians 4:4-5** we read: But when the right time came, God sent his Son, who was born from a woman and lived under the law. ⁵ God did this so that he could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. God's purpose was to make us his children.

Questions:

- A. In 1 John 4:14, how does John refer to Jesus?
- B. In Galatians 4:4-5, why is it important for us to know that Jesus was "born from a woman and lived under the law"?
- C. In this same verse, why did God send his Son [Jesus]?

3. For the remainder of today's meeting, **PREPARE** for next week's **INVITE** meeting by:

- 1. Asking a student to prepare a faith story (how Jesus has affected their life) for next week.
- 2. Asking a student to prepare to share the gospel and/or invitation next week.

Challenge: At the end of the meeting, gather in a circle and pray for each other.

INVITE- Week 3

This week, a student shares a faith story and another the gospel and/or invitation. After the invitation, the Response Cards are passed out and collected, and then the leaders use the Follow Up Plan below.

Please follow these steps:

- 1. Welcome everyone and open in prayer
- 2. Explain First Priority and the purpose of today's meeting
- 3. Introduce the student sharing his/her faith story
- 4. After the faith story, a student reads the gospel and/or invitation
- 5. Response cards are passed out to all students and then collected at the end of the meeting
- 6. A leader invites all guests to next week's First Priority meeting
- 7. A leader reports today's attendance and decision for Christ's on the First Priority phone app
- 8. A student closes in prayer

Gospel Message (To be read out loud to the group):

- Admit that you are a sinner. To "sin" means to make a bad choice out of selfish desires, and sin separates us from God because we are pursuing our own path aside from what God's perfect plan for us.
- Believe in Jesus and put your trust in Him. Christ's death on a cross was an act of selfless love. He took on the whole sins of humanity, making it possible for all people to be reunited with God.
- Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. This means acknowledging that you want Him in your life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This means that we cannot be saved by being "good enough", but only through accepting Jesus as our Savior.

Invitation/Prayer (ask students to bow their heads):

If this message is speaking to you today, and you want to trust in Jesus as your Savior, then pray this simple prayer to yourself: Dear Lord, I have sinned and this has separated me from you because you are a Holy God. But, your Word says that Jesus died for me, and his grace is extended to me so that I can be forgiven. Today, I pray that you will come into my life and be my LORD, helping me to trust in you and live in a way that is pleasing to you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Follow UP Plan:

Once you've shared the gospel and invitation, collect the student response cards (can be downloaded from the First Priority website) and then follow these steps:

1. Student leaders commit to praying for and contacting any student who has made a decision for Christ and/or has questions.
2. When contacting these students, student leaders will:
 - Answer any questions they may have
 - Offer to pray for them
 - Invite them to the next week's CONNECT meeting
 - Invite them to your church, if they don't have one
3. Return all student response cards to the student leader or teacher (response cards or information on the cards must never be given to an outside adult or organization/church).

Challenge: Invite two friends to next week's meeting.**CONNECT- Week 4**

In this cycle, we have talked about the Trinity- the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- each is a part of God and with a distinct role. This week, we will talk about the role of the Holy Spirit.

1. In **Acts 2:38** we read: "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." |

Commented [AJ1]:

Questions:

- A. How do you receive the Holy Spirit?
- B. Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

2. In **John 14:26** we read: "The Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name."

Questions:

- A. In this verse, what is one of the roles of the Holy Spirit?
- B. Do you struggle with the idea that someone who you cannot see can provide you guidance or comfort?
- C. Has the Holy Spirit helped you to remember God's promises (please provide examples)?

3. In **John 15:26** we read: "But I will send you the Advocate [Encourager]—the Spirit of truth [the Holy Spirit]. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me."

Questions:

- A. How does this verse describe the Holy Spirit?
- B. Why is it important for us to have someone who testifies to us about Jesus?

4. Read **Psalms 143:10**: "Help me to do your will, for you are my God. Lead me in good paths, for your Spirit is good."

Questions:

- A. How does this verse help you to overcome your own selfish desires?
- B. If the Holy Spirit comforts, convicts, and encourages us, how should this affect our lives and the decisions we make?

5. Spend the remainder of the meeting talking about ways to help others get CONNECTED to your First Priority club.

Challenge: Invite two friends to your youth group or church this week.