LESSON 1: THE TRINITY

AIM: To teach the children in simple terms the truth of the Godhead. That is—God is three Persons in one—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: It is very important that you use some visual aids in this lesson so that we can take the children from the known to the unknown and aid them in grasping the spiritual truth.

OPENING IDEA: You will need an apple and a sharp knife. Carefully peel an apple in front of the children, keeping the skin in sight. Then cut the apple into quarters and cut out the core or better still, use an apple corer to remove the core in one piece.

(1) Hold up the skin and ask the children what it is and what it does for the apple (the skin protects the flesh).
(2) Hold up a piece of fruit and ask the same question. (the flesh is for eating. Its purpose is to provide food.)
(3) Hold up the core and go through the same routine (the core contains the seeds which enable the apple to reproduce).

Discuss how each part (the skin, flesh and core) had a different job to do, but they are all part of the apple—three parts to one apple. The apple cannot survive without each part. Maybe at this point, you could distribute pieces of apple to the children for them to eat.

MEMORY VERSE: "... God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love." (Romans 5:5[b]).

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION: Write verse on apple shapes
**STORY:**
You may like to give out the following Scripture verses to children and have them read them out at the appropriate time: Matthew 10:29-31, 1 John 5:11-12, Ephesians 3:16, Acts 4:29-31, Galatians 5:22-23.

God is a bit like the apple we looked at before. Just as the apple is made up of three parts that all work together to make a perfect apple, so God has three parts to His make-up that all work together in unity and harmony and love to help us know and understand Him, and to enjoy loving relationship with Him.

We can think of God a little like a triangle (draw a triangle and write the word "GOD" in the middle.

Each side of the triangle is necessary or else it would be just an open shape. Likewise, each part of God is necessary to express His fullness to us.

**GOD is the FATHER** (write “FATHER” on one side of the triangle in a different colour)

God the Father protects and cares for us. He makes the decisions for our life (Mt 10:29-31)

**GOD is the SON** (write the word “SON” on the other side of the triangle in a different colour).

God the Son gave His life and rose from the dead to save us from sin and give us eternal life (1 Jn 5:11-12). And now He lives at the right hand of God the Father, praying for us (Rom 8:34)

**GOD is the HOLY SPIRIT** (write “HOLY SPIRIT” at the bottom of the triangle in a different colour).

God the Holy Spirit is working for the children of God by giving them strength to live for God (Eph3:16), by teaching the truth about God (Jn16:13), by giving us power to tell others about God (Acts4:29,31), and by helping us to grow good "fruit" in our lives (Gal.5:22-23).

It may be good to give each child a card with triangles drawn on it, and let them write the words as a reinforcement of this lesson.
Photocopy two shapes for each child. Have the children write the words on each side. Cut out the shapes, then further cut them into 3 sections, separating the top, middle and bottom parts, as per the diagram at right. Place a piece of ribbon between the two sides, then glue them back to back, leaving a loop at the top. Leave about 2cm between each section.
Front
SPIRIT

BREATH

PNEUMA

RUACH

(Greek, meaning spirit)

(Hebrew, meaning spirit)

Pneumatic drill = air under pressure
Holy Spirit = air under pressure
Who is the HOLY SPIRIT?

THE TRINITY

God the Father was in the beginning with the Son and the Holy Spirit (Gen1:1,26). God created us for loving relationship with Him. For us to know Him, He relates to us as God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father protects and cares for us. He makes decisions for our lives. His children are like priceless treasure to Him.

Ephesians 1:4, Matthew 10:29-31

God the Son gave His life and rose from the dead to save us from sin and give us eternal life, and now He lives at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, praying for us...

1 John 5:11-12, John 16:5

God the Holy Spirit is doing the work of the Father until Jesus comes again to take us to heaven

John 15:26, 16:13-16

Jesus promised that God the Father would send us a Comforter after He died and went back to heaven to be with His Father. That Comforter is the Holy Spirit (John 14:17,26). God sent His Spirit of holiness into the world to:

- ... give us power to tell others about God.
- ... give us strength to live for God.
- ... grow good ‘fruit’ in our lives.
- ... teach us the truth about God.

Write FATHER on one side of the first triangle and GOD in the centre. Repeat with each triangle adding SON to 2nd triangle and HOLY SPIRIT to 3rd.

Look up the Bible verses and match them with the words in the blue box. Copy the words into each word bubble.