

Explaining the Trinity: E-Book Project-Based Lesson Overview

Topic:
The Trinity

Driving Question(s)

How can the mystery of the Trinity be explained in a clear and creative way so our school/parish community can grow in understanding?

In what ways does my knowledge about the Trinity shape how I live my spiritual life?

Objectives	Materials
• Explain and analyze the Trinity according to Scripture, Church Fathers/Saints, Papal Teachings, and Church Documents. • Write a chapter for an e-book summarizing an aspect of the Trinity. • Create and assemble a group e-book project explaining the mystery of the Trinity to be shared with the school/parish community.	• <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> ◦ Pp. 142-421; 422-570; 683-810 • <i>A Journey Through the Catechism</i> ◦ Chapter 2 (pg. 19-42) ◦ Chapter 3 (pg. 43-59) ◦ Chapter 5 (pg. 73-87) • <i>Computer (for research)</i> • <i>WordDoc (for writing draft)</i> • <i>PowerPoint (for assembling e-book)</i> • <i>Chapter Research Outline</i> • <i>Explaining the Trinity Overview and Directions Sheets</i> • <i>Rubric</i> • <i>Peer & Self Evaluation Form</i> • <i>Pen/Pencil</i>

Important Info to Know

Vocabulary:

Begotten:

"To bring about"; This term refers symbolically to the Son of God, who comes from God the Father from all eternity. This is not to be understood in any biological sense, but it is meant to convey the truth that, as in the case of human parents and their children, the Son of God shares the same nature as God the Father.

Blessed Trinity:

The central mystery of the Christian Faith. It teaches that there are Three Divine Persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Catholic:

From a Greek word meaning "universal" or "general". The Catholic Church is the Christian community that is one, holy, apostolic, and catholic. The Catholic Church is open to all people everywhere at all times and preaches the fullness of God's Revelation in Jesus Christ.

Doctor of the Church:

A title conferred by the pope or by a general council declaring a saint to be holy, wise, learned, and therefore a source of sound theological teaching for the Church.

Fathers of the Church

Those men from the first through eighth centuries AD who were given this title based on their monumental contributions to the Church, especially their extensive writing/teaching about the faith in order to help it grow, expand, and develop.

Monophysitism:

Heresy that asserted that there is only one nature in the Person of Christ, his divine nature.

Monothelitism:

A heresy that claimed that Jesus has two natures but only one will, his divine will.

Nestorianism:

A heresy by Nestorius, it denied the union of the human and divine natures of Christ. Instead, it claimed a union of two persons.

Outline and Timeline

*****This is an in-class project. Only work on this at-home if you do not finish the project in the workdays allotted to you. *****

Days 1 & 2: Introduction to the Blessed Trinity

- Lecture and Sketch-Note activity on the Blessed Trinity.
- Group Rotations & Class Discussions on the Blessed Trinity.

Day 3: Expectations of the Project

- Introduce guidelines, expectations, and rubric for e-book assignment.
- Receive assigned chapter, home group, and focus group.

Days 4 & 5: Research and Write (In-Class)

- Research with the help of the Chapter Research Outline Handout.
- Students draft individual Chapter Research Outline for assigned chapter.
- Meet with home group for the last 10 to 15 minutes of class to check progress and provide feedback.

Day 6: Research and Revise (In-Class)

- Continue to research as needed.
- Finish writing/revising draft in Chapter Research Outline for assigned chapter
- Begin writing final draft.
- Meet with home groups for the last 10-15 minutes of class to check progress & provide feedback.

Days 7 & 8: Design, Assemble, & Publish

- Complete final draft.
- Review of guidelines and steps for designing/publishing an e-book.
- Meet with focus groups to check all writing content and revisions are made.
- Format chapters and visuals for the e-book layout according to guidelines.

- Publish final draft.

Days 9 & 10: Present & Share

- Each group share/present their e-book and reflections to the class.
- Quick self and peer reflection.

Explaining the Trinity: E-Book Project Instructions

In this project, you will be creating an e-book with your small group explaining the mystery of the Trinity that will be shared with the class and parish/ school community.

You will be assigned **one** chapter of the e-book to **write** for your group. Once your chapter is written, all the members of your group will compile their written chapters with yours to form **one e-book**. You and your team members will collaborate on the visuals, format, and style of the e-book and then publish it. Once it is published you will present and share your findings and reflections with the class.

GROUPS

- You will all be assigned a small group by your teacher that you will collaborate with to create an e-book. There will be four members in each group. Each group member will write their own chapter for the e-book, but as a group, you will all work together to provide feedback, collaborate, assemble, and publish the e-book.
- **Group Overview:**
 - o **Feedback:** At the end of each writing day, you and your team members will work together to provide **constructive** grammatical, theological, and formatting feedback to each other for each chapter. The feedback provided should be given to **revise** the writing, not the person writing it!
 - o **Collaborate:** Though the chapters are written individually, take time to research and bounce ideas off one another to make the e-book flow cohesively. Be kind to one another: if a team member is struggling or is in a writer's block encourage and help them!
 - o **Assemble:** The final e-book is a **joint effort**. You want to make sure all of you are on the same page with formatting (text size and font, visuals, colors, etc.). You also want to ensure everyone's chapters are fully uploaded and each member's **references are up to date, cited correctly, and alphabetized**.
 - o **Publish:** When the book is assembled, let a team member bring it to the teacher to review. Once it is reviewed, one person will publish the e-book, and another will share it with their group members and the teacher.
- At the end of the project, you will present your e-book to the class in a brief presentation. You will also do a quick self and peer reflection on you and your team member's collaboration and effort as a group.

TASK:

This is a step-by-step breakdown of what is expected of you for this project. Use it as a checklist as you work to ensure you are completing all requirements.

- ☐ **What is required to turn in:**
 - o **TWO** e-book files (*one as a pdf and another as an epub file*).
 - o Chapter Research Outline or Notes Sheet for **EACH** member of your group.
 - o **ONE** word doc per team member (*revised/draft chapter*).
 - o **ONE** peer and self-evaluation sheet per team member .
- ☐ **Your assigned chapter:** You will be assigned one of the following chapters to research.
 - o Chapter 1: The Trinity in Scripture
 - o Chapter 2: The Trinity according to Saints and Church Fathers
 - o Chapter 3: The Trinity according to Papal Teachings

o Chapter 4: The Trinity according to the Church Documents

- ❑ **Research:** As a team, **ALL** of you will research to write a chapter on the Trinity, assemble and publish an e-book with your group, and reflect on how understanding the Trinity has deepened your faith life. When you are writing, you want to make sure what you share with others is accurate. Below is a chart of reliable sources you may use for this project:

Reliable Sources to Use
● <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> ● <i>A Journey through the Catechism</i> by Fr. Mahan ● The Bible (Catholic edition) ● Documents by Church Fathers, Saints, from the Vatican, or Encyclicals. ● A Webpage that ends in: .edu; .gov; .org; .com (use with caution) - o Purpose for content is to inform - o Updated Information (not outdated) - o Cites sources (if necessary)

****You may take notes however you wish as you research, but there will be a chapter research outline for you to write down what you find if you would like to use it. Keep all your research together because at the end of the project, you will be turning it in. ****

❑ **E-Book requirements:**

****Note: There will be NO copy and pasting information from a website, that is plagiarism. You must put the information in your own words OR if you want to cite the information, do so properly in APA format****

You will be given a sample and template to look at to help guide you in this process.

- o **Title page (title will be the name of your book...be creative!)**
 - Include: all team members names, your block, and the name of the course.
 - One visual on the cover.
- o **Formatting:**
 - Font, colors, and visuals all need to be **professional looking!** This will be a published book so keep the mindset when designing a book you might find at a bookstore. Be creative but be appropriate to your audience.
- o **Table of Contents**
 - Ensure you have all the chapters and corresponding page numbers for each.
 - No visuals.
 - Chapter names are:
 - Chapter 1: The Trinity in Scripture
 - Chapter 2: The Trinity according to Saints and Church Fathers
 - Chapter 3: The Trinity according to Papal Teachings
 - Chapter 4: The Trinity according to the Church Documents
 - References
 - Appendix (if you choose to do one)
- o **Chapters: (look to the sample and template for more details on how to write/assemble each chapter)**
 - **WRITE YOUR CHAPTER DRAFT IN A WORD DOC FIRST!**
 - All chapters should be 1-3 pages.
 - At least 1 visual, but no more than 3 per chapter, to enhance content written.
 - All chapters should be cited in APA format for in-text citations/quotes.
 - Heading should include the chapter number **and** chapter name.
 - Basic format for each chapter:
 - Topic Intro:
 - o About a paragraph of content introducing the chapter.
 - Topic Details:

- o Should be between 2-5 paragraphs of content.
- o At least **ONE** Bible verse to support your statements.
- o At least **ONE** CCC reference to support your statements.
- Topic Conclusion
 - o About a paragraph of content to wrap it up.
- Topic Reflection
 - o Can be added onto conclusion, but no more than a paragraph answering these questions: *What new insights about the Trinity have I gained? How might these insights shape how I live my spiritual life?*
- o **References:**
 - 1 page (includes **EVERYONES** references).
 - Need to be alphabetized from A-Z based on author name or title of work if no author.
- o **Appendix:**
 - Optional
 - Can be prayers, songs, saint quotes, art, or reflections about the Trinity you and your team would like to share.

☐ **Assembling & Publishing requirements:**

- o Write and revise your work on a Word Doc first!
- o Copy and Paste your Word Doc onto the Power Point to assemble the e-book.
- o Once your e-book is assembled and formatted to turn in, **one** team member brings it to the teacher to review.
- o Once reviewed, another team member can turn in a PDF file of your e-book and send to the group and teacher.
- o Once the PDF file is sent to the group and the teacher, go to <https://convertio.co/pdf-epub/> and convert your PDF to an e-book file.
- o Download the e-book file and send to the group and teacher.
- o *Now you have a published book that will be shared to the local school/parish community!*

☐ **Presentation:**

- o 5-7 minutes sharing your book layout, findings, and reflections to the class.
- o Each team member **must** contribute their reflections/findings to the class in the oral presentation.