

SUNDAY MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

TRINITY SUNDAY



NICODEMUS GOES TO TALK TO JESUS

READINGS

ROMANS 8 VERSES 12 – 17

JOHN 3 VERSES 1 – 17

Be present, God our Heavenly Father, as we bring you our praise.

Be present, Lord Jesus, our Saviour and friend.

Be present, Holy Spirit, as we declare our faith,

Trinity in unity, God Almighty,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

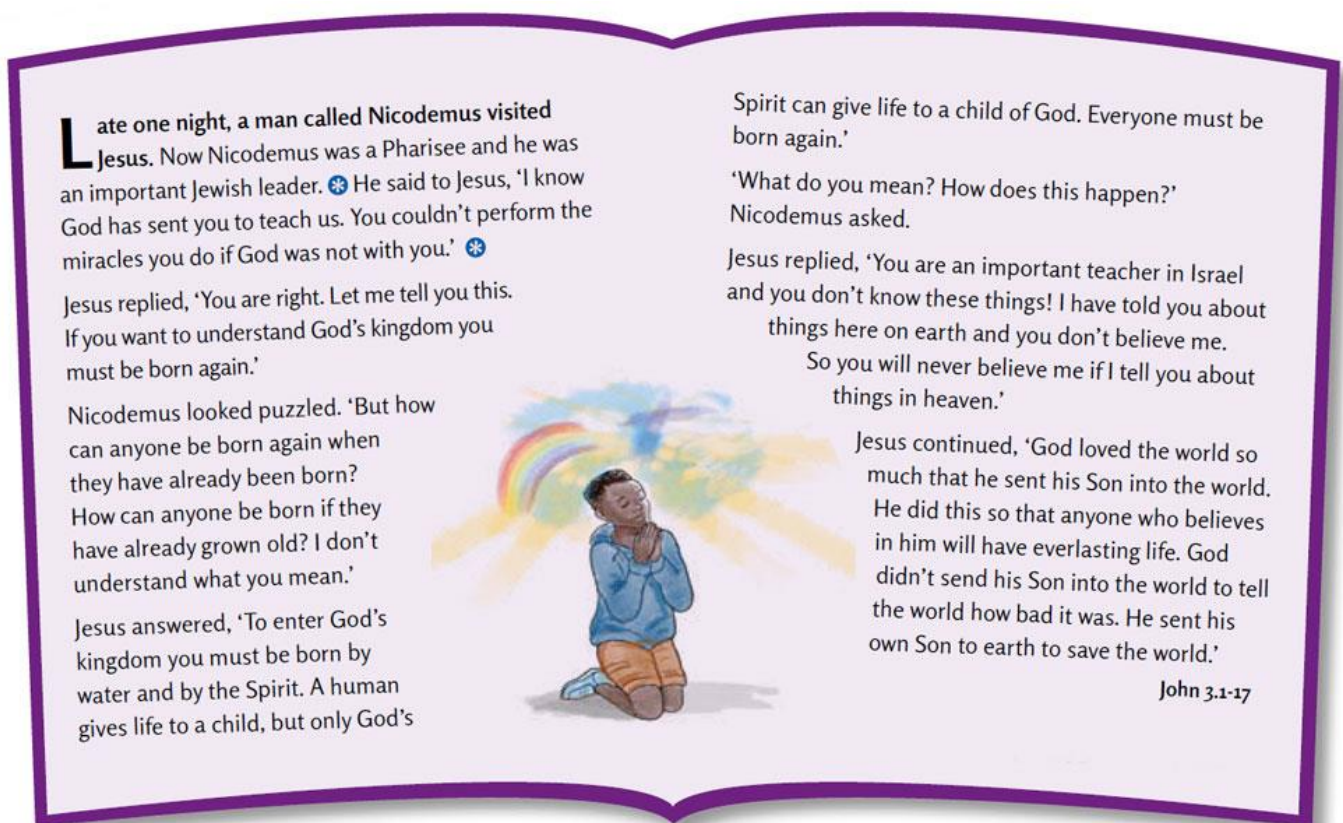
**Amen.**

Read the story and pause at the ✨ to share these points with the children (see *Stop and share* below). Then use the activity to explore the passage together. (10 mins)

### Stop and share

Explain here that Pharisees were people who tried to keep every part of the Jewish law very strictly.

Ask if the children know what a miracle is – a wonderful sign or event that can only be done by God's power.



### Bible Notes on John 3.1-17

Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee, comes to visit Jesus 'by night'. We do not know what he was hoping for, but he felt that the opportunity to talk with Jesus privately was worth risking the scorn of his fellow Pharisees (John's Gospel describes a hostile environment where those who chose to follow Jesus would be put out of the synagogue; see John 9.22). Does Nicodemus have a burning question about what it means to serve God? His comment in verse 2 seems to be his honest opinion, not an attempt at manipulation (because he reappears in John 19.39, bringing a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes with which to bury Jesus). So, we might wonder what he hopes to learn? Whatever it is, the conversation immediately goes in a direction that he does not expect. We have got so used to the phrase 'born again' that we assume that we understand it. Nicodemus, on the other hand, has no idea! The statement baffles him and he retorts: 'How can anyone be born after having grown old?' If he was hoping for some advice that would smoothly combine with what he already believes, he faces disappointment. Jesus is uncompromising and insistent – it is this process of being born of the Spirit that makes it possible to even see the kingdom of God. This release of new life, eternal life, is God's plan for the world.

## The Holy Trinity

How often have you heard a priest say 'in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit'? Do you understand about the '3 in 1'? To make it easier God the Father who created the world, God the Son who came to earth to show us what God is like and God the Holy Spirit is our helper.

We can all be 3 in 1:

Mums you are a mum, a daughter and a granddaughter but you are only 1 person.

Fathers you are a work-mate, a husband and a father but still only 1 person.

Girls you are a daughter, a friend, and a sister or cousin but you are only 1 person

Boys you are a son, a grandson and a brother or cousin but still only 1 person.

People who look after you can be a teacher, a friend and a mother but they are still 1 person.

You can probably think of more examples different to these.

St Patrick used the shamrock leaf to explain the Holy Trinity – the 3 in 1.

See if you can find a clover/shamrock leaf in the garden.

Or cut out 3 small hearts and join them in the centre to make a shamrock/clover leaf.

1 egg = shell, white and yolk

1 apple = skin, flesh and core

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### **A prayer for others**

We pray for our church leaders: may they hear God's voice.

We pray for the leaders of the nations: may they bring peace to the world.

We pray for ourselves: may we bring to our family, friends and neighbours the good news of God's love.

**Amen.**

# ACTIVITIES

## Pipe cleaner circles

Make a symbol of the Trinity

Help the children to make one pipe cleaner into a circle by twisting the ends together. Loop a second pipe cleaner through the circle and then twist the ends to make a second circle, interlinked with the first. Finally help them to thread a third pipe cleaner through both of their circles and twist it together so they have three interlinked circles.

## Storytelling cups

Illustrate the emotions of today's story

**You will need:** white paper cups (two per child), pens.

- Give each child two paper cups, one pre-cut with a hole in one side.
- Invite the children to put the whole cup inside the cut one and draw a 'confused' face through the hole onto the inner cup.
- Ask the children to spin the inner cup around so the hole is blank again and draw a smiling face onto the inner cup. They can then decorate the outer cup around the hole to draw a man.
- Invite them to listen to the story, using their storytelling cups to illustrate Nicodemus's confusion and Jesus smiling as he explains.

## Draw the Trinity

Think about our images of God

**You will need:** paper, colouring pencils.

Invite each person to draw separate images that say something about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

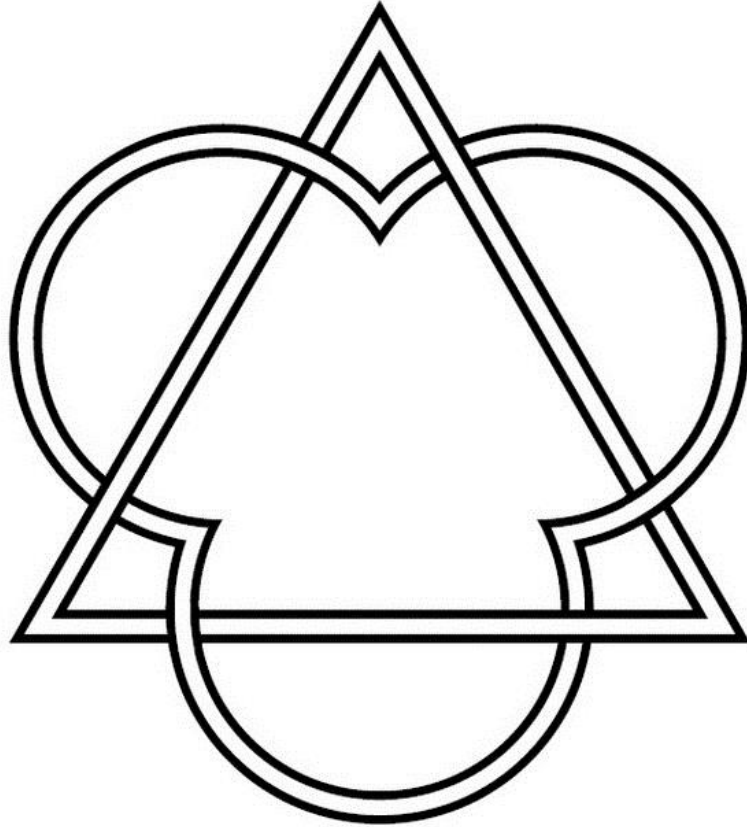
When everyone has finished, ask them to share and explain their drawings.

Ask: Were some parts harder/easier to draw?

Finish by discussing any questions about the Trinity. Write the questions onto the drawings. We can get very close to God, but even then, there is so much mystery about who God is.

If you have a fidget spinner put a small sticker in the middle with God on, then on 1 arm put one with Father, one on another with Son and another with Holy Spirit. What happens when you spin it – it becomes one.

Signs of the Holy Trinity to colour







Jesus and Nicodemus  
*John 3*