



THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

Lesson 1: A Loving Trinity Shares Their Love

CONTENT:

1. Before anything else was made, there was God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are 3 persons, but one God.
2. Each is different, but each is God. They live in unity and love, like a very loving and happy family.
3. God wanted to share his love and happiness with someone else, so he decided to make human beings.
4. At my Baptism, Father poured water on my head and said, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." At that moment, I became a part of God's family.
-  5. The Sign of the Cross is a sign that shows I belong to God's family. When I make it, I am saying, 'I belong to God: to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'
-  6. Since God is so loving and has shared his love with us, we also should open our hearts and homes to others.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Plan and invite someone for a meal. Write about it.

REFERENCES: CCC 221; 232; 253-55; 265.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Large picture of a loving family; handouts.

I. STARTER:

[Show a large picture of a loving family. Ask:]

- Who can you see in this picture? ...
- Do you think they are happy or sad?.. Why? [*Happy, because they love each other.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

1. STORY: Ajit Joins the Family

Once upon a time there was a happy family, just like the one in the picture. There was Mr. Dias, the father, Mrs. Dias, the mother and their son, Peter, who was 6 years old. They lived in beautiful house on the hill-side. All around them there were trees, bushes, flowers. From their house they could look down onto a valley. In that valley there was a small village with some small huts.

The little family was very happy together. Each one had their work to do. Peter's dad looked after the animals on their farm and went to the market to buy whatever they needed. His mother cooked the food and cleaned the house. She helped Peter with his studies and taught him many other things also: how the bees went from flower to flower and collected sweet nectar for honey and why the eagles would suddenly swoop down from the sky... Peter also had his jobs to do, besides his studies. He watered the garden every day and gave the chickens their food. He collected the eggs that the hens laid.

Peter and his dad and his mum were very, very happy together. Every evening, when their work was done, the three of them would go for a walk over the hillside or down into the valley and Peter's dad would tell him the names of plants and birds or stories from other countries.

Every time they passed the village, Peter noticed a little boy sitting all alone under a mango tree. The boy looked about the same size as him, but he was very thin and he never seemed to talk, or laugh or play with the other village children. As Peter and his family passed, the boy would always look and look at them till they had gone out of sight.

Peter kept thinking about him, even when he got home. ‘Why does he sit all alone? Why doesn’t he play and shout? Does he have a family?’ Sometimes when he was asleep, Peter would dream of the little boy jumping and laughing and playing with him.

Then one day, when Peter and his Dad and Mum passed the mango tree, they saw that there was no one there. Peter felt something tight in his stomach. He got very worried. ‘What has happened to the little boy? Has he gone away? Is he sick?’

They asked a man who was sitting nearby. “Oh, you are talking about Ajit! His nani died just 2 days ago. Now there is no one to carry him out, and no one to look after him. He has no father or mother... Come and see.” The man took them to a little hut. Inside, in a dark corner, they could see the little boy lying with his eyes closed.

Peter saw his daddy looking at his mummy and lifting his eyebrows, as if he was asking her something. Mummy looked at him and then at Ajit. She nodded her head. Then they both looked at Peter. Peter understood. “Yes!” he shouted so loud, that the little boy woke up with a shock. “Yes, let’s take Ajit home! Let’s take him home. Let him be my brother.”

Ajit opened his eyes and stared at Peter and his daddy and mummy. He thought, “I must be dreaming! They are here with me, just like in my dreams.” Then they asked him if he would come to stay with them. You can guess what his answer was!

That same day daddy carried little Ajit up the hill to their house and he began to live with them. They called the doctor to check him up. Soon, with medicines and good food Ajit became stronger. He was able to run and play with Peter, and help him to water the garden.

One day, Daddy came home with a big smile on his face. In his hands he carried a big cake and a little box. He called everyone and opened the little box. In it was a gold chain with a something written on it. As he put it round Ajit’s neck he said, “Look! Can you see what’s written here? Ajit Dias. You are now our son and belong to our family! Let’s have a party!”

Peter jumped in the air and did a thumbs-up sign! Ajit also did the same. Their dreams had come true.

2. Now I’m going to tell another story, which is a little bit like the story of Ajit and Peter. This is a true story. It really happened. And it is the greatest story that ever happened.

Long, long ago there were no people, no trees, no world, or sun or moon. There was only God: The Father, the Son (that is, Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. They were 3 persons, but they were only one God.

Like Peter and his family, they were very happy together and they loved each other very much. Like Peter’s family, each was different, but each was God. Can you understand this? (Even big people find it very difficult to understand!)

Now one day, the Father, Son and Spirit said, “We are so happy, let’s share our happiness and our love with someone else.” But... there was no one else to share with, because there was no one except God in the beginning!

So God said, “Let’s make someone who can join our loving family! Let’s make people: Men and women, and boys and girls and babies.”

This was God’s wonderful idea. Soon he began to get things ready for the people. We will tell you all that God did later. Every time we have our Religion class we will tell you some more of the story.

3. [Give out handouts at this point.]

- Look at the picture on the top. Who do you think the people are? [*They are Peter and his daddy and mummy. Daddy is putting the gold chain on Ajit and Peter is jumping because he is so happy.*]
- I just told you another story, a true story about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are like a loving family who love each other very much. They wanted to share their happiness with someone else. Are you are part of their family?
- When did you become part of their family? [*At your Baptism: When you were taken to Church as a little baby and Father poured water on you and said, “ I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!”*]

- When Ajit joined the Dias family, the daddy put a chain with his new name on his neck. Is there something we do which shows that we belong to God's family? [*Give hints like: You do it when you enter the church, before you pray, sometimes when you are afraid, or need help..*] The Sign of the Cross.
- What do we say? [*In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*] [*Practice the action with the children, placing the left hand on the breast.*]
- Last question:
When a policeman puts his hand up like this, he means: 'Stop!
When your mother does this she means, 'Shh... be quiet!'
When Peter's daddy lifted his eyebrows and looked at the mummy, he was trying to say, "Shall we take Ajit home?"
What do we mean when we make the Sign of the Cross? [*We are saying, "I belong to God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I belong to God's family!"*]

III. ACTIVITY:

[Read the words on the sheet aloud, while the students follow. Students draw themselves as a baby in the picture of Baptism and colour the pictures if they like.]

IV. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Lets pray now.

[Make the Sign of the Cross together, then ask the children to close their eyes and pray after you.]

Dear God / You are such a loving God/ just like a very loving, happy family/
Thank you for making us/ and calling us to be part of your family./
Help us also to be like you/ and to share our happiness with others./ Amen

Home assignment: Read the handout with someone at home. Plan with your family to invite someone to share a meal at your home. When you do it, write down who came to your home and how you felt when they came over.