

Jesus Holds The Whole Creation Together

FOR THE TEACHER:

This week's lesson uses the traditional manger scene to help the kids understand that Jesus holds the whole creation together and the whole creation will always exist with him. Jesus is the good news of God that we are sharing with kids. This is Jesus' identity: He is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, living in permanent union with all of humanity and all of creation.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Magic Disappearing Act. Choose a magic trick below to show things that disappear.

- Set up 3 small cups with a bottle cap under one of the cups. Quickly move the cups around. Once you stop, have the kids try to pick which cup the bottle cap is under.
- Take a coin and make it disappear in your hand or sleeve, then make it reappear behind a child's ear.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Colossians 1:15-20. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- *How many gods are there? (one). *How many persons does God have? (three). *Who are the three persons of God? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- *Which person of God became visible as the man Jesus? (the Son).

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

- *Who created everything that exists? (The Father created everything through the Son and with the Holy Spirit). Think about when Jesus was born. Where was he born? (Bethlehem, Stable). Name some things the Father created through the Son that were visible when Jesus was born. (Stable, animals, stars). Name some things that were invisible. (Angels, planets).

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- *Who keeps all people and all creation in existence? (Jesus) *What happens to all people and all creation if Jesus goes somewhere? (He takes all people and all creation with him).

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus is the Son of God who holds the whole creation together and the whole creation will always exist with him.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

What does the word "reconcile" mean? (To make something right again after it has gone wrong).

When did things go wrong with the creation? (When Adam and Eve sinned).

Who made everything right again for the creation? (Jesus)

SECOND ACTIVITY: Recreate the scene of Jesus' birth. The presence of angels and animals in the manger scene is a statement of how Jesus has embraced the whole creation, even things that could not be seen.

Use one of the examples below or come up with your own.

- Bring some items that would be in a manger scene (Mary, Joseph, Jesus, angels, animals, stars, hay, barn, etc) Ask the children to come up with who/what was at Jesus birth. When they come up with a guess, give the child that object and have them all start to recreate the manger scene.
- Bring some paper, scissors, stick glue and magazines to class. Have the children create their own manger scenes by finding people and animals in the magazine to represent Mary, Joseph, Jesus, animals, stars, etc. Have them cut and paste them on their page.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for creating the world and creating us through Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for making what is wrong with the world right again. Help us, Holy Spirit, to believe that Jesus holds the whole creation together and that he has made everything right again for the whole creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.