

*Catholic Diocese of Wilmington/PCAD
Keeping Our Promises Curriculum 2019*

**Opening and Closing Script
All Parish Grade Levels:**

“THE TRINITY MODELS RELATIONSHIP” OPTION¹

OPENING SCRIPT:

Welcome:

- Hi! I am here today to talk to you about how much God loves us and wants us to be our best selves and live our best lives.
- You may have already heard some of the things we are going to talk about at a presentation in your school. Today, we are very lucky that we can talk specifically about being safe and smart in the context of our Catholic faith, because God loves each and every one of us very much, and wants all of us to be safe, and to make good choices.
- We are going to open with a reading from Genesis, the first book of the Bible. We will then pray together our opening prayer. Let us remember that gathered together here we are in God’s presence. We shall begin, as we do all things, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*See Appendix A (page 4) to read the Bible Passage and Opening Prayer
and then continue:*

- Did you know that we are created by love, to love, and that we are created to be in relationship with others? Let me explain....
- Look around, each one of us is different. Even twins are different from one another. For example, they have different fingerprints.
- God created all of us – all of creation – and everything God creates is good. We heard that in the reading. Does anyone remember the end of the reading? Creation wasn’t just good, it was ... (answer from the kids: “very good!”)
- We are called to respect and to love all of God’s creation – this includes ourselves and all of those around us because God wants all of us to know that we are loved. The Bible tells us that God *is* love. Did you know that God models for us what relationship is? What does it mean to have a relationship with someone?
- Even God is in relationship – Who can name what that is? [*Make the sign of the cross as a hint.*] We call that the Trinity -- Three separate persons in one God. I know, it is really hard to imagine!

¹ You may choose to open your presentation with EITHER “The Trinity Models Relationship” Option OR “The Great Commandment Teaches Us to Love” Option.

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- People have thought of many ways to understand the Trinity by thinking of different metaphors.
- Even though we can never fully explain the mystery of God, my favorite has always been water.
- We know that water can exist in three separate forms [*see if your audience can name them*]: as a liquid, like how we drink it, as a solid, like ice, when it freezes, and as a gas, like a cloud or steam. And we know that when water is a liquid, it is not a solid or gas; and when it is a solid, it is not liquid or gas; and when it is a gas, it is not liquid or solid. But in each of its forms, it is always water.
- Here is another way that might help you understand the Trinity...who knows what this is? That's right - it is a Fidget Spinner!
 - When we look at a Fidget Spinner that is not moving, we can see that it has three distinct parts. We can name these parts, if we want - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Who can tell me what I am supposed to do with this Fidget Spinner?
 - [*Children will respond: "Spin it!"*]
 - That's right! I need to set it in motion, like this [*demonstrate the Fidget Spinner*].
 - Now when I do this, what happens to those three separate parts that we named Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? They blend together to form one, don't they? You cannot see the individual pieces because the motion of spinning joins them together. In the real relationship of the Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - we call this motion "the wheel of infinite love" - because we know from the Bible that God IS what? --- does anyone remember what I said earlier? Right! God is Love.
 - Therefore, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all relate to each other in a motion of infinite love, meaning that it has no beginning or end; it is always there. In this relationship of love, they are united as one God. [*For background on this, please see Fr. Richard Rohr's helpful explanation here:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGMAbXbRP84>
- Just as God is in relationship, *we* are created to be in relationship with others. Who do you have relationships with? [*Take examples such as: family, friends, classmates, neighbors...*] What are some things you like to do together? [*Take various examples*] I bet that you are like me, sometimes you have a great time with those you are with, and sometimes you don't.
- *Sometimes* it is hard to remember that we are created to be good, because, *well*, we mess up; and sometimes it is hard to love and respect everyone, because *people do things that are mean and hurtful*.

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- God sent His Son, Jesus, to teach us how to be loving even when others are not.
- God wants us to love and to be loved, but God gave us free will to make choices.
- *So*, we have to be smart about our relationships with others, and we have to know how to protect ourselves and others from people who choose to hurt people instead of love people.
- Like I said, you may have heard and talked about some of these things at school. We are talking about them here today because *here* we can talk about God's love for us, and how we are created to be in healthy, loving relationships with others just like God is in relationship – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. [*Show Fidget Spinner, and spin it to affirm the lesson.*]

*Continue to follow the scripts according to grade level.
At the conclusion of the script, close with the following prayer:*

CLOSING:

We close this session with prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for our time together. Help us to continue to learn the ways to stay safe and healthy from our families, catechists, and teachers. Help us to be kind to others and to love and pray like you. Together, let us pray the prayer you taught us.

Our Father...

Amen.

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APPENDIX A

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning, there was nothing. So God made the world.

Then God said, “Let there be light!” And there was light.
But the earth was empty. So God said, “Let there be sky!” And a blue sky appeared.

And God said, “Let there be land and seas, and plants to live there!” And it was so.

But the night sky was still dark. So God said, “Let the moon and stars appear!” And soon the night sky shone with their light.

But the earth still had no animals of any kind. So God said, “Let there be birds and fish!” And soon birds flew and fish swam.

But the land had no creatures. So God said, “Let the land have animals too!” And all kinds of animals came to life.

God looked at all he had made and smiled. He was glad he had made the sky, the land, the seas, the plants, the stars, the moon, the birds, the fish, and the land animals. It was all good.

But there was still no one to rule the earth. So God took some dirt and made it into a man. God gave the man life. And God named him Adam. Then God made a woman from Adam’s rib, and Adam named her Eve.

When God was done, he had made everything – the sky, the land, the moon and stars, the seas, the plants, the animals, and people.
And all of it was very good.²

The Word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

² Eager Reader Bible Storybook, Catholic Edition. (1994). Huntington, In.: Our Sunday Visitor. Genesis 1-2.

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OPENING PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you created us all in your image and likeness to love. You gave us Jesus, your only Son, to show us how to love and the Holy Spirit to help us to experience the truth of your goodness. We thank you always for being in our presence. Bless our time together and help us to seek your goodness in all we do.

Amen.

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