

Trinity Sunday by George Herbert

Introduction

Select from the following activities:

Do some 'three' games:

- Find three things in the classroom beginning with T
- Name three cartoon TV programmes
- A shape with three sides
- A cycle with three wheels

Encourage pupils to think in threes.

1. Explore the poem using the presentation *Trinity Sunday*

Show the poem in the projected version and ask them to locate things that are about threes or are in groups of three. Explore the poem using as much background as is appropriate referring to the Bible verses that may have inspired it. If you roll over words explanations will appear.

From *Trinity Sunday* by George Herbert

Enrich: To make richer. The Bible talks of different types of riches. People can be rich in friendship with God and in goodness towards others.

The Christian belief that God can be experienced in three persons: Father (Creator), Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit (God present and active but invisible).

Enrich, my heart,
hands, mouth in me
with faith, with hope
and charity,
that I may run, rise,
rest with Thee.

Faith, hope and charity; the three top qualities expressed in the Bible.

'Charity' is the old word for love.

'Rise' can mean rising to life after death.

2. Annotate

Pupils can download the *poem* and annotate it. Coloured pens can be used to show the different groups of three.

3. Exploring the Trinity

The early Christians came to a belief in the Trinity from personal experience of God and after a period of reflecting on the Bible. They experienced God as Creator and Father through the world around them, what they read about God in the Bible and through their own experience. Christians experienced God the Son (Jesus) through a sense of him being with them and from the gospel stories. They experienced the Holy Spirit as God invisible but active in the world. The Trinity is an important belief for Christians, because it means that at the centre of the Godhead there are relationships centred on love. Rublev's icon of the Trinity expresses this. Christians use word-pictures and symbols to express these ideas. You can see this on the PowerPoint *Trinity Sunday*. In the note section of the PowerPoint there is information about the pictures.

A musical chord is sometimes used as a symbol of the Trinity. Pupils can experiment with playing three notes together on different instruments. They are three separate notes

but heard as one sound. Christians sometimes use this as a way of thinking about the Trinity.

4. Heart, hands, mouth

Explore what this might mean. Use the template on *Heart, hands, mouth* for pupils to fill in what riches of heart, hands and mouth might mean in this poem. They can also add what riches of heart, hands and mouth means to them.

The Bible explains there are different types of riches. There are earthly riches or treasures such as money and possessions. There are also heavenly riches, doing things for others, behaving justly, loving God and one's neighbour, good attitudes and speech.

- Riches of hands (actions towards others)
- Riches of heart (attitudes)
- Riches of mouth (speech)

The Bible talks about the whole person serving and loving God. Hands, heart and mouth sum up a whole person (heart was generally 'inside' and covered thinking as well as feeling in the Bible). Heart, hands and mouth is how faith, hope and love are lived out

Reflection

Can we be rich in things other than money?

5. Faith, hope and charity – The virtues Olympics

Explain that you are going to create an Olympic ceremony with small prizes for these virtues but first you need to explore what they mean in practice.

- **Faith.** There are three aspects to faith in Christian thinking:
 - a) what is believed
 - b) an attitude of trust
 - c) faith put in action (see Teacher notes)
 Explore the sculpture *The Faith* by Luis Salvador Carmona on the presentation **Trinity Sunday**. Which aspect of faith is this expressing? Note: What is believed matters, as beliefs lead to actions. It is not enough to be sincere. Dangerous beliefs can result in actions that are bad for everyone.
- **Hope.** Flip a coin for hope (see Teacher notes) or explore the painting by Frederic Watts on the PowerPoint. This woman continues playing her harp even though all but one string is broken. Christians believe that hope should carry on even when life is difficult because they believe that good triumphs in the end. Hope, in Christian thinking, is the assurance of the triumph of God and good.
- **Love.** This is more than a feeling. Create role plays where different types of love are shown: commitment, tough love and feeling. Alternatively, explore these through the painting *Grandfather and grandson* by Domenico Ghirlandaio (see Teacher notes).
- Print out the **template of an Olympic medal**. Ask pupils to write one of the three virtues on one side. On the other, write what type of behaviour they would award this medal for. When the medals are finished go through them and then vote on one love medal, one faith and one hope medal to stand on the Olympic podium (drama blocks) and give a small prize to the pupils who designed them. The podium should be arranged as equal second (faith and hope) and one first (love). Pupils may wish to extend this. What sort of events would you need to win to gain the faith, hope or love medal?



6. Run, rise, rest

These three words sum up life for the Christian.

- **Run.** The Bible sees life as a race that you train for. Only certain aspects of this metaphor apply, such as having a goal to aim for. A runner has a goal and is not distracted by other things. Similarly, getting the goal and purpose right is important for Christians and not being distracted by accumulating possessions or status. Life is about relationships for Christians (with God and others). This is a race that all can win. Runners train seriously. Life is to be taken seriously in the sense that it is not to be wasted on things that don't really matter.
- **Rise.** This is about rising to life after death. Christians do not believe that death is the end.
- **Rest.** Being with God is described as rest. This is not lazing about but being at peace. R.I.P. is written on many graves - Rest In Peace.
- Pupils can create their own series of three words to sum up their view of life. They do not have to share the same sound. They can create calligrams of the words using WordArt or create them by hand. See the examples on the final slide of the PowerPoint or use **Run, rise rest.**

