

# DOCTRINE 3

*We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.*

## Lesson Aim:

To teach that there are three persons in one God, who share God's power and glory coequally.

## Objectives:

1. The learner will understand the meaning of Doctrine #3 and its biblical basis.
2. The learner will memorize Doctrine #3.

## Lesson Overview:

Doctrine Sing-Along  
Opening Prayer  
Review Activity  
    Doctrine 2 Word Scramble  
Junior Soldier Promise  
Opening Activity  
    God is EGG . . . ceptional!  
The Lesson  
    Cup of Tea  
Reinforcement Activities  
    Let's Do It! #1: Understanding the Godhead  
    Separate . . . But United  
Closing Prayer

## Background Information:

Although the truth about the Trinity is found throughout the pages of Scripture, the word *Trinity* is never used. Remember that Jesus was Jewish and that His disciples were all from a Jewish background. They were raised saying this prayer every day of their lives, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one."

## You'll Need:

- ✓ Doctrine CD
- ✓ CD Player
- ✓ Copy of Doctrine Song: "One, Two, Three"
- ✓ Review Activity: Doctrine 2 Word Scramble
- ✓ Hard boiled eggs
- ✓ Easter egg coloring kits
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Tea kettle
- ✓ Tea bags
- ✓ Disposable cups for hot drinks
- ✓ Ice cubes
- ✓ Either actual items or pictures mounted on posterboard of items that begin with "tri" (such as triplets, tricycle, triangles)
- ✓ Lengths of rope cut into workable pieces, enough for three pieces per Junior Soldier
- ✓ Chalkboard and chalk, or easel with markers and posterboard/paper
- ✓ Pens/pencils
- ✓ Copies of the history background of The Salvation Army (to be given to selected Junior Soldiers in preparation for next week's lesson)
- ✓ Let's Do It! #1



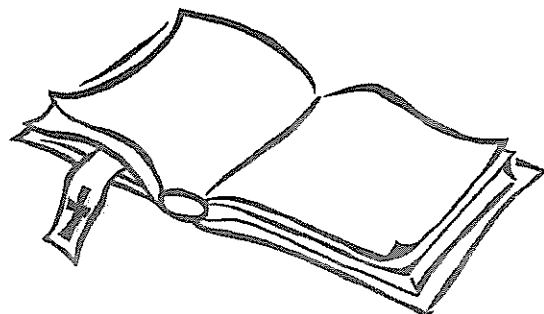
Notes:

## Background Information (continued:)

Suddenly, they had to re-examine their beliefs in the face of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They still believed in one God. But they also recognized Jesus as God. He claimed attributes that only God possesses, like omniscience (Matthew 9:4), omnipotence (Matthew 28:18) and omnipresence (Matthew 28:20). He did things only God can do, such as forgiving sins (Mark 2:1-12) and raising the dead (John 12:9, Mark 5:36-43).

As they recalled many of Jesus' statements, such as "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30) and "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9), they realized once again that God was much greater than their ability to understand Him. And then Jesus commanded them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is recognized as God (Acts 5:3-4). He also possesses attributes such as omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:10) and omnipresence (1 Corinthians 6:19). Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

So the disciples believed and preached the truth of this doctrine. It is included throughout the New Testament in such verses as 1 John 5:7, "for there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit" (NKJV). And 2 Corinthians 13:14 says, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." But this doctrine was not put into writing until Tertullian (ca.165-220 A.D.).



## DOCTRINE 3

### Background Information: (continued)

Tertullian was the first person to use the word *Trinity*. Yet his writing included some error because his views were tinged with subordinationism. This is the belief that the Father is eternally superior to the Son and the Spirit. Throughout the second, third and fourth centuries, there was much debate about how the Godhead existed and whether the three persons in the Godhead were of the same essence. People discussed whether there was no distinction between persons, that God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost were three aspects of one person or whether there was such complete distinction that there were actually three Gods. It wasn't until the writings of Augustine (354-430 A.D.) that the doctrine of the Trinity was finally expressed where each person in the Godhead possesses the entire essence of God and that all are interdependent on the others, yet there is only one God.

As we study the Bible with the Holy Spirit for illumination, we find various indications of the Trinity in the Old Testament. There are indications in His name, Elohim. "El" means almighty, powerful, God; and the ending, "him," which is in the plural form. Also, there are verses such as, "Let us make man in our image." Even the Shema, the famous verse, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one," uses *echad* for one. This is not the word used generally for one, but is the word used for multiples within one, such as with husband and wife: "the two shall become one flesh."<sup>22:2</sup> So through study and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are made aware of the truth of our third doctrine.

Notes:



## Notes:

### Reminder:

If you are planning to use questions for review games, take a few minutes at the end of the lesson and have each Junior Soldier write three (3) questions and answers based on this week's lesson.

### Do Ahead:

Tables should be covered and the egg coloring materials set up before the Junior Soldiers arrive.



## Background Information: (continued)

### Resources Used:

*Handbook of Doctrine.*  
Great Britain: The Salvation Army.  
Campfield Press, 1969.

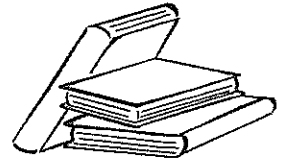
*Basic Theology.*  
Ryrie, Charles C. United States of America:  
Victor Books, a division of Scripture Press, 1986.

*The Women's Study Bible.* New King James Version.  
Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995.

*Webster's New American Dictionary.*  
New York: Smithmark Publishing, 1995.

*The Pentateuch and Haftorahs, Hebrew Text and English Translation and Commentary, 5728-1967.*  
London: Soncino Press.

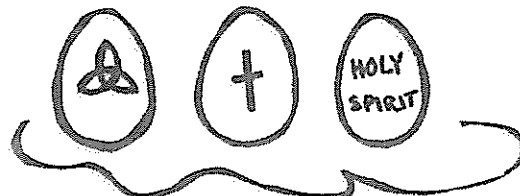
*Jewish New Testament Commentary.*  
Stern, David H. Maryland: Jewish New Testament Publications, 1992.



### Opening Activity:

#### • God is EGG . . . ceptional!

Have eggs hard boiled and give one to each child as s/he comes to class. Have them decorate the eggs, using Christian symbols or the names of the three persons in the Trinity. Explain how these eggs represent a visual picture of the Trinity. There is an egg shell, an egg white and an egg yolk; but these three parts make up one egg. So it is with the Trinity.



## DOCTRINE 3

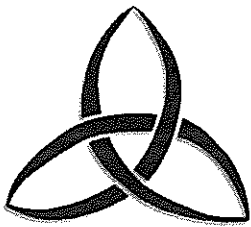
### The Lesson:

“We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.”

Have you ever thought to yourself, “This is just too complicated for me to understand?”

You might think that when you see pictures that were sent back to earth from the Hubbell telescope in outer space. You can actually see a picture of a star in a distant galaxy 10 billion light years away. What is one light year? One light year is 5.88 trillion miles away. This was 10 billion light years away. What does one billion even mean? One billion means a thousand million! And that star in the picture might not even exist anymore because it has taken the light from it 10 billion light years just to travel to this galaxy! When you try to figure it all out, you might feel like just giving up because it is so complicated.

Sometimes, I think that way about the Trinity. But when you think about it, God is so much greater than we can imagine. It shouldn't surprise us when we don't fully understand the whole picture.



Who knows what the Trinity is? (*Allow response.*) That's right. It's God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Where does the word *Trinity* come from? (*Show "tri" items.*) So Trinity means “three persons in one unity.” Sometimes in church we sing the doxology which ends with these words, “Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

Let's begin by reciting the first part of our doctrine: “We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead– the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.” Who is God? What do we know about Him? (*Discuss their answers. If you have a blackboard or easel with paper, write down their answers.*) That's right. He is the Lord, the Creator, our Heavenly Father.

### Notes:

**Do Ahead:**  
Come to class prepared to show a posterboard with pictures of items that begin with the prefix “tri.” Or you could bring in the actual items, such as a tricycle.

You can involve junior soldiers in this segment of the lesson by having them write their own answers on the board.



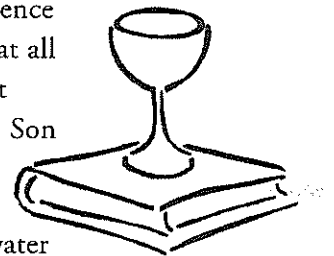
Notes:

## The Lesson: (continued)

And what do we know about His Son Jesus? (*Again, write answers down as they give them.*) Often, when we talk about Jesus, we say He is God Incarnate. Do you recognize that word? (*Write on board: Incarnate*) Have you ever eaten chili con carne? The word *carne* (underline carn) is from the Latin and means “flesh or meat.” Chili con carne is chili with meat. So the Incarnation is God “in meat or in flesh or in a body.”

And the Holy Ghost? The Holy Ghost is God living in you. When the King James Version of the Bible was translated in 1611 A.D., the name Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit were used interchangeably. Now, the term ghost implies something unreal and vague. But the Holy Spirit is very real and not at all vague. So either word is correct but, generally speaking, we tend to use the title Holy Spirit more often. The name Holy Spirit comes from a word that means, “one called along side to help.”

Let’s recite our doctrine, adding one more phrase: “We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence.” What does *essence* mean? (*Allow response.*) Essence means “fundamental nature or quality.” This means that all three are actually God and fully God. But there are not three Gods. Each one is God, and together, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one God.



We use water all the time, but do you all know what water is? (*Allow response.*) It’s actually made of two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen. Let’s make a pot of tea! What am I putting in the tea kettle? That’s right, water. Now as it heats to the boiling point, it’s giving off a vapor called steam. What is that? (*Allow response.*) That’s right, that’s water but in another form. Now, I’ll pour it into your cups and let’s drink it. It’s too hot to drink right away? Well, I have some ice cubes here that will cool it down. What is ice made of? That’s right, water that is frozen. So although ice and water and steam are different, their essence is the same. God the Father, God

### Do Ahead:

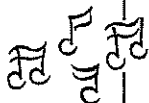
Set up tea kettle, tea bags, ice cubes before class begins.



# DOCTRINE 3

## The Lesson: (continued)

the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the same in essence.



Doctrine song, "One, Two, Three"

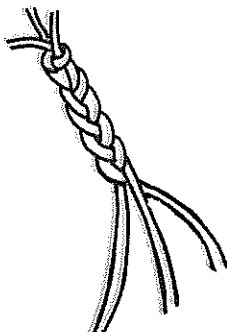
One last time, let's say Doctrine #3: "We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory."

There isn't a tug-of-war going on in heaven. There are three persons in the Godhead, but all three are part of one God and they are all equal in power and glory. All of the Godhead, or Trinity, is involved in the plan of salvation, and we will cover that when we study Doctrine #4.

## Reinforcement Activities:

- "Separate . . . But United"

*Pass out the pieces of rope, giving each child three lengths with which to work. Explain that they are going to braid the rope. This will be a visual aid of the Trinity, each a separate person, yet one.*



- Let's Do It! #1: Understanding the Godhead

Notes:

*Thinking Ahead:  
If you are using option #1 for next week's lesson, hand out the history background sections to those Junior Soldiers who will be participating.*

Doctrine 3 Honor Junior Soldier Lesson submitted by Major Andrea See  
Mount Vernon, NY Adult Rehabilitation Center ~ Eastern Territory



# WORD SCRAMBLE

The letters of Doctrine 2 have been changed. Figure out each word and then write the correct spelling of each word above the letters that are misspelled. Once you figure out a letter, it will be used as the same letter through the entire puzzle. For example, when you see the letter Q, you will know that it is the letter W.

We believe that

.....  
 QL DLPVLXL AYO AAYLNL VK CZPW CZL TCH,

.....  
 QYC VK VZMVZVALPW ULNMLSA, AYL SNLOACN,

.....  
 UNLKLNLN OZH TCXLNZCN CM OPP AYVZTK,

.....  
 OZH QYC VK AYL CZPW UNCULN CDBLSA CM

.....  
 NLPVTVCEK QCNKYVU.



## UNDERSTANDING THE GODHEAD

When you solve this puzzle, you'll prove how well you understand this doctrine. You'll also discover an important word hidden in the middle of the puzzle that describes an important Christian belief.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



CLUES



1. GOD WHO FORMED THE WORLD.
2. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD.
3. GOD "CALLED ALONGSIDE TO HELP."
4. GOD WHO BECAME A HUMAN BEING.
5. ONE OF THE FORMS OF WATER THAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THIS DOCTRINE.
6. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD WHO ARE EQUAL IN POWER.
7. GOD WHO LIVES IN YOU.

Did you find the hidden word? Good for you! Write it here. Then, in your own words, explain what that word means.

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## WORD SCRAMBLE

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We believe that there is only one God,  
 .....  
 QL DLPVLXL AYO A AYLNL VK CZPW CZL TCH,

who is infinitely perfect, the Creator,  
 .....  
 QYC VK VZMVZVALPW ULNMLSA AYL SNLOACN,

Preserver and Governor of all things,  
 .....  
 UNLKLNLN OZH TCXLNZCN CM OPP AYVZTK,

and who is the only proper object of  
 .....  
 OZH QYC VK AYL CZPW UNCULN CDBLSA CM

religious worship.  
 .....  
 NLPVTVCEK QCNKYVU.



## UNDERSTANDING THE GODHEAD

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1.		F	A	T	H	E	R			
2.		T	H	R	E	E				
3.	H	O	L	Y,	S	P	I	R	I	T
4.		S	O	N						
5.				I	C	E				
6.				T	H	R	E	E		
7.	H	O	L	Y,	G	H	O	S	T	



CLUES



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TRINITY: THE WORD TRINITY DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE BIBLE, BUT THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS BASIC TO ALL CHRISTIANS WHO WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD AS FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. IN PERSONS AND WORKS HE IS THREE. IN PERSONALITY AND LOVE HE IS ONE.

