



LESSON 1 | God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV): “May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Key Question: Who is God?

Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*—Chapter 1, “Our Great God” (the Trinity)

Master Supplies List

- Believe Storybook Bible
- PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations
- Cup of ice cubes
- Cup of water
- Cup of hot (steaming) water
- Clear container (large enough to hold the ice cubes and the 2 cups of cold and hot water)
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Family Page supplied with this lesson (one per child)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Light-colored construction paper (8½" x 11"); scissors; crayons or markers; pencils; glue; Crown, Cross, Dove sheet (one of each per child)
- OPTION 2:** Several plastic toy figures of people; tub of water
- OPTION 3:** Who Said It? puzzle (one per child); pencils
- OPTION 4:** Crayons or markers, coloring page supplied with this lesson (one per child)

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Cup of ice cubes, cup of water, cup of hot (steaming) water; clear container (large enough to hold the ice cubes and the 2 cups of cold and hot water)

NOTE: The purpose of this activity is to show steam (as opposed to liquid). Even tap water can get hot enough to steam, and most churches have coffee/tea carafes that can be plugged in to heat water. If safety is a concern, teachers can “fake it” by using a tea kettle with white tissue paper sticking out of the spout to represent steam.

- GATHER the children.

ICE

- SHOW children the cup of ice cubes.
- ASK, Does anyone know what this is made of? (Water) How is it made? (Cold temperature turns liquid to solid/freezes)
- ASK, What does ice feel like? (Cold, hard)

WATER

- SHOW children the cup of room-temperature water.
- SAY, This is another form that water can take. It can be liquid so we can drink it. What are some other things we can do with water in this form? (Take responses)
- ASK, What does water feel like? (Cool, wet)

STEAM

- SHOW children the cup of hot water.
- ASK, What happens to the water if it gets really hot? What do you see happening to the water now? (It turns from liquid to gas/evaporates)
- POINT OUT the steam.
- SAY, Do you know why you wouldn't want to touch this? (It's hot, it could burn you)
- SAY, That's right, steam and hot water can burn you. That's the opposite from the ice cubes, right? Ice and steam seem very different, don't they?

REVIEW

- SAY, Water, ice, and steam are all the same thing, but in different forms. This can help us understand how God can be three things at once. If I poured the water, ice, and steam together, what would they become? (Take responses)

- POUR all of the materials into one clear container.
- SAY, He is still one God, but he shows up in different ways. Our one true God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but he is always one God.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week’s key verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say the verse from memory.

2 Corinthians 13:14

May Jesus Christ, *(make a cross with your fingers)*

God, *(point up to heaven)*

and the Holy Spirit *(place your hand on your heart)*

be with you all. *(gesture to everyone around you)*

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: *Believe Storybook Bible*, chart paper, markers, PowerPoint slides or printable posters of illustrations.

Teacher Prep: Draw a three-column chart on the chart paper; label “God” at the top.

INTRODUCTION

- TELL children that they will be hearing about God in three forms: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- DRAW a crown at the top of column 1 (the Father), a cross at the top of column 2 (the Son) and a dove at the top of column 3 (the Holy Spirit).
- SAY, This is called the Trinity. As we read today, listen for the three parts of the Trinity.

READ CHAPTER 1

- READ aloud chapter 1, “Our Great God” (the Trinity), from the *Believe Storybook Bible*.
- SHOW illustrations on PowerPoint slides or printable posters, included with this curriculum.

REVIEW THE FATHER

- ASK, Where was God the Father in this story? What did he do? What is he like? (He created the universe; he is pleased with Jesus; he is powerful)
- WRITE answers in column 1.

REVIEW THE SON

- **ASK**, Where was God the Son in this story? What did he do? What is he like? (He came to earth as a man; he was baptized; he is sinless and pleasing to God)
- **WRITE** answers in column 2.

REVIEW THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **ASK**, Where was God the Holy Spirit in this story? What did he do? What is he like? (He came down like a dove; he is with us; he is like an invisible wind)
- **WRITE** answers in column 3.
- **PRAY** with the children, asking God to help us to better understand him as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

STEP 3 | Explore More

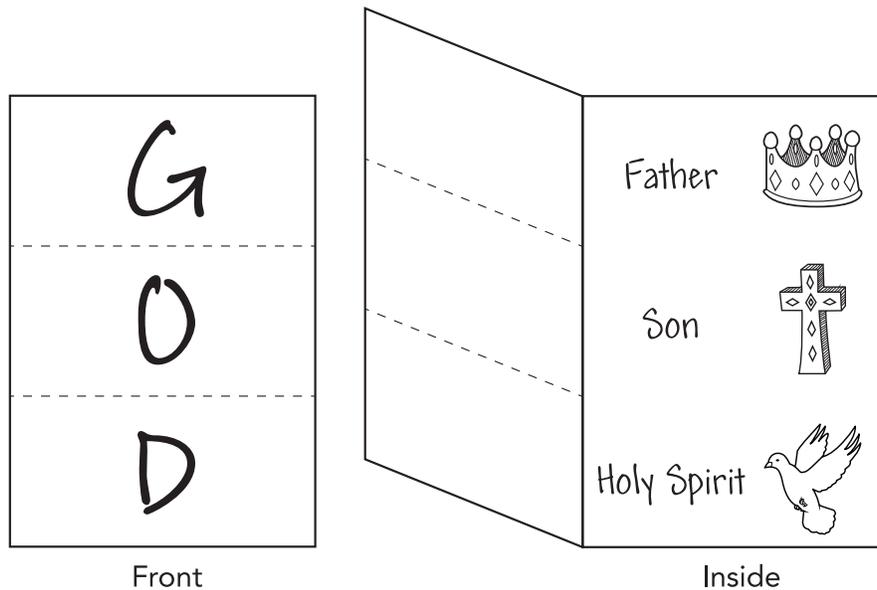
Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help children explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Three-in-One Flip Book (20 min)

Supplies: Light-colored construction paper (8½" x 11"); scissors; crayons or markers; pencils; glue; Crown, Cross, Dove sheet supplied with this lesson (one of each per child)

Teacher Prep: Photocopy the Crown, Cross, Dove sheet supplied with this lesson (one of each per child). Prepare a sample to use as a model.

- **GIVE** each child a sheet of paper and show them how to fold it in half like a book.
- **DEMONSTRATE** making two horizontal cuts across the front cover to make three equal flaps. Have the children follow your example.
- **INSTRUCT** the children to write **G-O-D** in large letters on the front of the book (one letter on each flap). If you like, provide stencils or letter stickers for the children to make the **G-O-D**.
- **INSTRUCT** the children to color the crown, cross, and dove symbols and cut them out.
- **INSTRUCT** the children to open the first flap and write “Father.” Then instruct the children to also glue the picture of a crown in that section. Continue by writing “Son” and gluing the cross inside the second section, then writing “Holy Spirit” and gluing the picture of a dove inside the third section.



Option 2: Come to the Water (15 min)

Supplies: Poster board (2), marker, double-stick tape, Creation Cutouts supplied with this lesson

Teacher Prep: Using a marker, divide each poster board into 6 sections. Number the sections 1–6. Place a 2” piece of double-stick tape in the center of each empty section. Hang the poster boards on the wall, or lean them against a chalkboard or whiteboard. Photocopy and cut out two sets of the Creation Cutouts supplied with this lesson.

- GATHER the children.
- SAY, Today we are going to play a game that will help us remember what God created on each day of Creation.
- REVIEW the days of creation with the children:
 - Day 1: light
 - Day 2: water and sky
 - Day 3: land and plants
 - Day 4: sun, moon, and stars
 - Day 5: birds and fish
 - Day 6: people and animals
 - Day 7: God rested
- DIVIDE the children into two teams.
- GIVE each team a set of the Creation Cutouts and gather them near the poster boards.
- INSTRUCT, As a team, I want you to work together to stick each cut-out in its proper day on the poster board. See which team can correctly place them all first!

- PLAY the game.
- SAY, Whew, that was tricky! Now let's all do what God did on the seventh day, after he spent six days creating the world: Rest!

Option 3: Who Said It? (10 min)

Supplies: Who Said It? puzzle (one per child), pencils

Teacher Prep: Photocopy the Who Said It? puzzle supplied with this lesson (one per child).

- GIVE a copy of the puzzle and a pencil to each child.
- READ the directions.
- HELP with any questions or problems as they solve the puzzle. The final answer spells TRINITY.
- **NOTE:** This activity may be difficult for nonreaders. You may choose to have children work in pairs or do the puzzle as a group. You may also choose to make this a game for the children to find the clues. Ultimately, you may decide how to use this puzzle as it best fits your group of children.

OPTION 4: Let's Color (10 min)

Supplies: Crayons or markers; Lesson 1 coloring page (one per child)

Teacher Prep: Photocopy the Lesson 1 coloring page (one per child).

- GIVE each child a coloring page.
- PROVIDE a selection of crayons and/or markers for the children to share.
- DISCUSS this week's Key Idea as the children color.

OPTION 5: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“My God Is So Big,” by Ruth Harms Calkin

©1959, 2002 by Nuggets of Truth

CCLI #2501437

“Holy, Holy, Holy,” by Christopher Norton, John Bacchus Dykes, and Reginald Heber (Words: public domain)

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OPTION 6: Act It Out (10 min)

Who Am I?

Act out this short skit, using children or puppets to represent John the Baptist, Jesus, God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. Instruct children to answer aloud each time you ask, "Who am I?"

The Bible: (*hold up Bible*) I am the perfect Word of God that tells the story of his creation and his love for mankind. Who am I?

Children: The Bible!

The Bible: Yes, I'm the Bible. And inside my pages you can find the story of when Jesus was baptized. Let's see who was there on that day ...

John the Baptist: I am Jesus' cousin. I have come to remind people of God's promises. I tell people to turn from their sins and follow God. When they make that decision, I baptize them in the river. Who am I?

Children: John the Baptist!

Jesus: I am God's perfect Son who came to earth to live as a man. I taught people about God and then died for their sins. Then I rose from the dead so that everyone can be with God in heaven someday. I started my ministry by having my cousin baptize me in the Jordan River. Who am I?

Children: Jesus!

God the Father: I created the world and everything in it. Then I sent my beloved Son to earth to save the people from their sin. When he was baptized, I called down from heaven, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him." Who am I?

Children: God the Father!

The Holy Spirit: I am the Spirit of God who comes down to live inside believers. When Jesus was baptized, I came down from heaven like a dove. Who am I?

Children: The Holy Spirit!

Teacher: Look at the many ways we can know our one great God. We learn about him through his holy Word, the Bible. And we get to know him as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Lesson 1 Family Page (one per child)

Teacher Prep: Photocopy the Lesson 1 Family Page supplied with this lesson (one per child).

- **GIVE** each child a copy of this week’s Family Page.
- **SAY**, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—or what we call the Trinity.
- **HAVE** children practice telling you about the three parts of our one God.
- **REVIEW** today’s story and key idea with the Believe Storybook Bible as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- **HAVE** children practice reciting today’s key verse by memory.
- **MAKE SURE** each child remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: Our Great God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NirV): “May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Key Question: Who is God?

Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*—Chapter 1, “Our Great God” (the Trinity)

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passage from your Bible to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile ideas provide interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. We can't see the Holy Spirit or the molecules of hydrogen and oxygen in our water, but we know they're there. What are some other things we know are real even though we can't see them? (The wind, the feeling of being loved, etc.)
2. What does it mean to be baptized? Describe it.
3. Do you remember your baptism? How does it make you feel to know that you are baptized? (**NOTE:** If your child has not been baptized, ask if they would like to talk about being baptized.)
4. What can we do to take good care of God's creation? (Recycle, throw trash away, etc.)

Living Faith

Option 1

Help your child re-create the story of creation using video technology. Hang a black towel or T-shirt to make a simple backdrop. Then plan out the props you can add to show each day of creation. Read Genesis 1 and 2 for inspiration. Some ideas are a flashlight or lamp for light, blue towels for water, a box for dry land, houseplants, paper cutouts of sun and moon, toy animals and people. Record each addition with your child narrating the words of God. Send the video electronically to share with friends and family.

Option 2

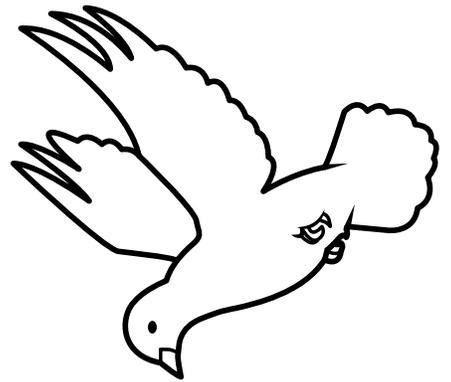
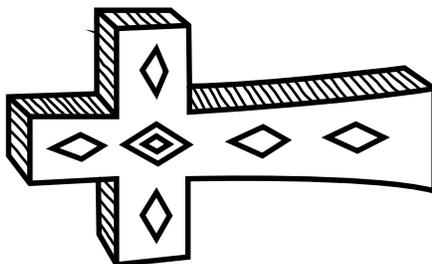
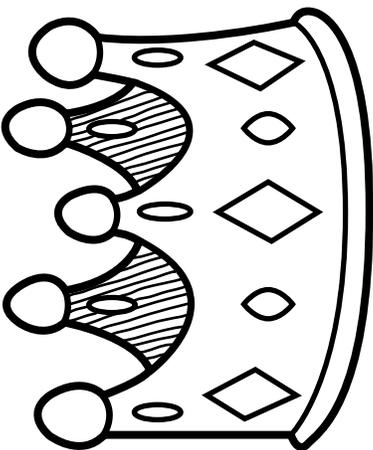
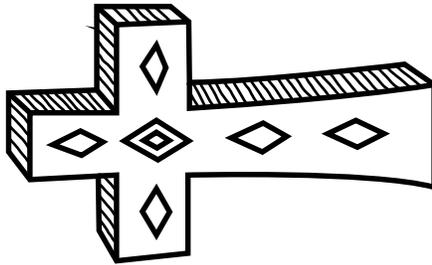
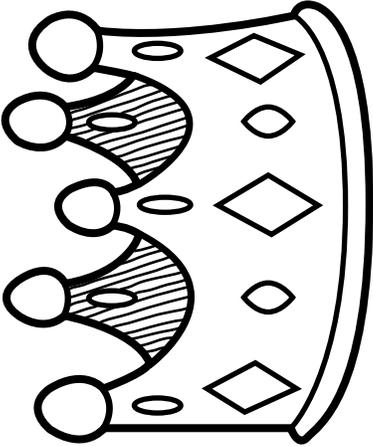
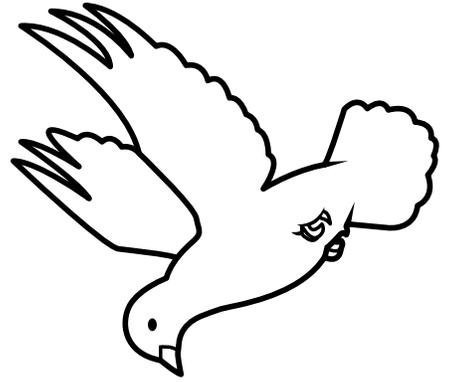
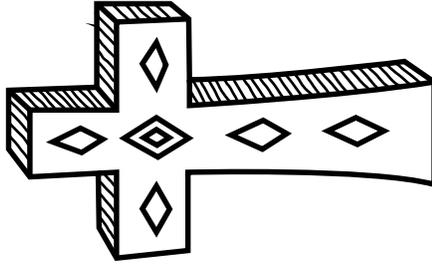
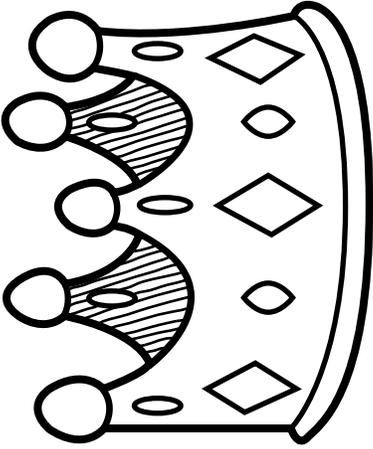
For a quicker option, help your child design a creation collage. Cut out pictures from old magazines and glue them into a collage on a piece of paper or poster board. Talk about which day God created each thing on.

Extra Mile

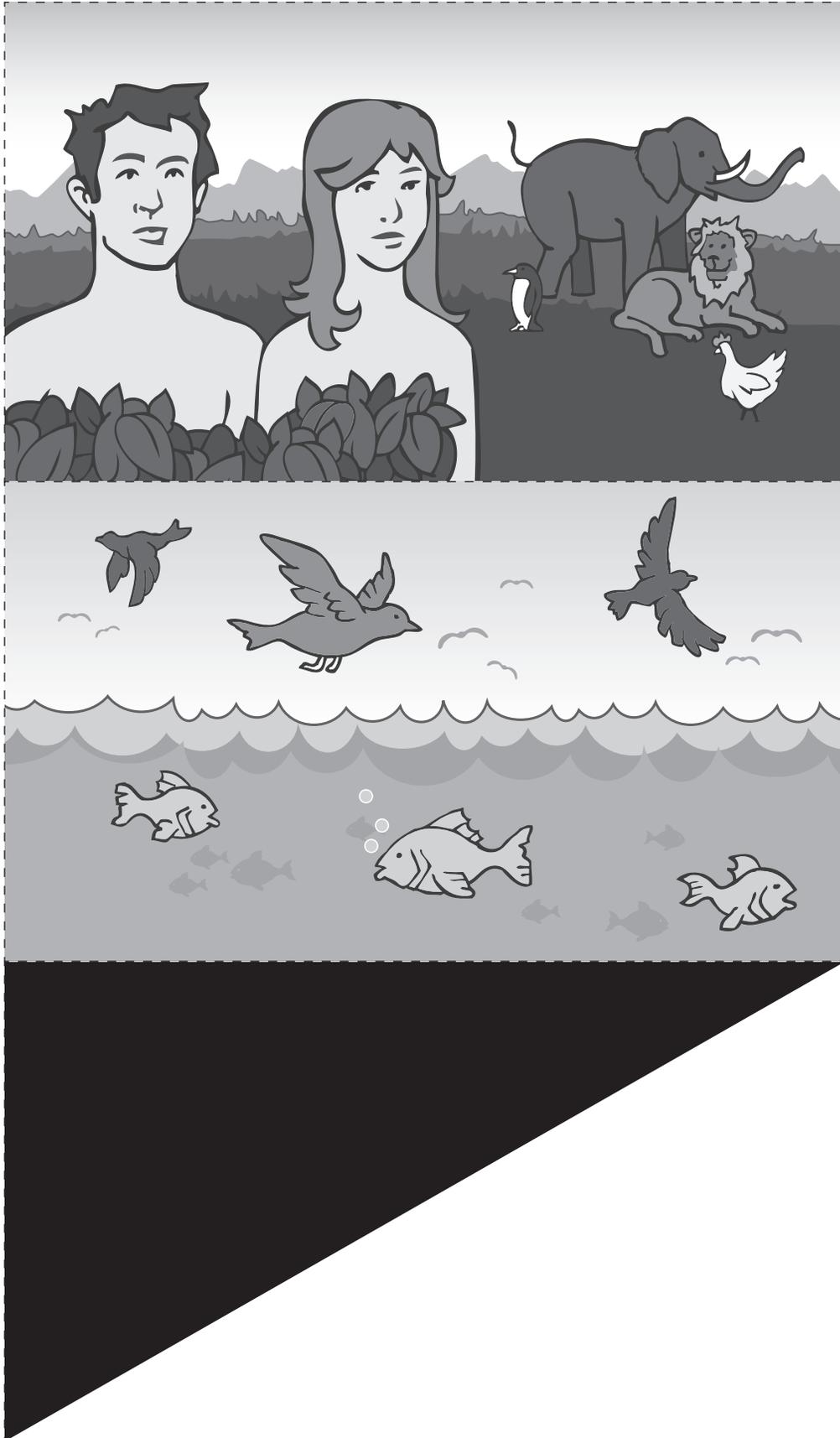
- Work together to take care of God’s creation. Talk about ideas for helping care for the land (pick up litter at a local park), the plants (plant a tree), the animals (donate old towels to an animal shelter), the water (learn how to reduce your consumption), and the people (perform an act of kindness).
- Interview someone about their baptism. Ask them to describe what it was like (where, when, how) and what led to their decision.
- Help spread the message of Jesus, just like John the Baptist did! Have your child create a drawing and/or write to explain what they have learned about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Trinity. Deliver the message to someone who may or may not be part of God’s family.
- Be sure to include confession of sin in your prayer time with your child. Explain to your child that sin is anything we do wrong that hurts God or other people. Try a simple “praise, confess, thank, request” like this one:

You are a great and loving God. I’m sorry that I sinned by ____.
Thank you that you will always forgive me. Please help me to _____. Amen.

Crown, Cross, Dove



Creation Cutouts



Creation Cutouts



Who Said It? Name: _____

Directions: Draw a line to match the words to the speaker.

"This is my own Son.
I am really pleased
with Him."



John the Baptist

"Whoever believes in
Me will not die, but
have eternal life."



Jesus

"I have baptized you
with water. He will
baptize you with the
Holy Spirit."



God the Father

Directions: Unscramble the letters to answer the question.

R Y I I N T T

What do we call our three-in-one God?

The _____