

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 13



God, the Trinity, the Creator and the Provider | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer the question “What is a creed?” and to understand what the word Trinity means. Students will also learn about how God the Father continues to care and provide for us.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Exodus 16:2-18.

What is the definition of the word creed?

What does the word Trinity mean?

God sometimes uses miracles to provide for us. However, what is his normal way of caring and providing for us?

Since many students probably do not have much experience with Creedal (confessional) churches, it may be wise to also share a copy of the Apostles’ Creed.

Live Class Greet those who are listening to the class.

The prayer asks for God’s blessings, focuses on the theme of the lesson, and effectively ends the greeting time and calls the lesson to order (2 minutes). The following prayer can be used:

Dear Holy Trinity, we thank you for this opportunity to come together and learn about what you do in the world. We thank you for the creation and especially the salvation that you have completed. Give us eyes to see your true greatness. All this we pray because Jesus has given us complete access. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- a. Explain the purpose of the course.
- b. Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- c. Explain that the **TELL** method is a teaching style with the goal of telling others what you’ve learned. The letters **T-E-L-L** represent four sections of study: **T** for Think, **E** for Evaluate, **L** for Learn and **L** for Lead.

Think: A powerful introduction that gets you thinking about an interesting topic, or question

Think about this: What does the word creed mean? If we've never read about a creed in the Bible, why would it still be important? *We use the Apostles' Creed to summarize the gospel message—what the Triune God has done for us. So what does the word Trinity mean when referring to God? It means three in one. But if the Bible says that there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), how is it possible that there are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? In this lesson we will learn more about God the Father and how he preserves and cares for us. We will answer these questions as we evaluate the Bible story that you read—Exodus 16:2-18.*

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The people of Israel, Moses, Aaron, the LORD*
2. What are the objects in the story?
3. Where did the story happen? *In the Desert of Sin, between Elim and Sinai*
4. When did the story happen? *After the LORD had delivered the people of Israel from their captivity in Egypt*
5. What is the problem? *The people of Israel complained that the LORD was not providing for them*
6. What events occurred in this story? *The people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron because they felt they weren't being provided for while they were in the desert. The LORD (God the Father) rained down quail and manna from heaven to provide for them.*
7. Is the problem solved? What is it? *Yes. The LORD provided for the people of Israel by supplying quail from heaven in the evening and manna from heaven in the morning—just as much as each of them needed.*

Learn (identify that sin is the problem and only God has the answer)

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The people of Israel sinned against God by not trusting that he was providing for them.*
2. What sin or sins does this lesson teach you to confess? *Not trusting in God the Father to provide for my needs*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God the Father deeply loves me and preserves and protects me*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to put my trust in him to provide for me. Sometimes he uses supernatural miracles to provide for me (like in the lesson from Exodus). But more often, he uses normal, everyday ways. He provides doctors and nurses to keep us healthy, firemen and police to keep us safe, teachers to educate us, and jobs for our parents.*

Lead (share this with a group of your brothers and sisters in Christ)

1. What would be a good situation in which to share this message? *We can share this message with someone to remind them that God the Father loves them deeply and will provide for their*

needs. He loves us because we are the crown of his creation, and he especially loves us because we are his redeemed children.

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What is the definition of the word creed? *A creed is a declaration of what a group believes and teaches. A creed can be useful in summarizing biblical truths to be taught and shared. We can also examine the creeds of others to see if they align with God’s Word.*
2. What does the word Trinity mean? *“Trinity” and its related term “triune” mean three in one. It is a term that describes a teaching we find in the Bible—that there is only one God, but there are three persons in that one God. We can’t comprehend it, but the truth is clearly taught in the Bible.*
3. God sometimes uses miracles to provide for us, like in Exodus 16:2-18 when he provided manna and quail to sustain the people of Israel in the desert. However, what is God’s normal way of caring and providing for us? *God uses common, everyday relationships to provide and to care for his world and the crown of his creation—human beings. For example, he uses the vocations of parents, farmers, truck drivers, store owners, and many more to provide people food. God isn’t a watchmaker who makes a watch, sets it, and walks away. God is still deeply involved in the preservation and protection of his creation, especially us as his loved, redeemed children.*
4. What do we mean when we say in the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in God”? *Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.*

Is faith merely knowledge? Faith is not merely or even essentially knowledge, as James 2:18 says: “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.” Note that James is using the word “believe” in an ironic, secular sense and not in the full trusting sense. Faith, then, is essentially not knowledge, but trust. However, knowledge can and should be added to faith.

What is saving faith? Saving faith is simple confidence in God’s promises of salvation found in Jesus Christ. Most people will instinctively cite Hebrews 11:1 without understanding its meaning. Lead the students to see the simple confidence found in that verse.

How do we obtain faith? You can use a combination of Romans 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 12:3 to show that the Holy Spirit uses his Word to create faith in peoples’ hearts. Emphasize the fact that humans by nature are unable to produce faith in our own hearts.

5. The doctrine of vocation is the teaching that God uses our everyday roles, jobs, and duties to serve him and to care for others. A mother helps her daughter. An employee works faithfully for his boss. A senator legislates beneficial laws. In a sense, God uses people as his “masks” to love others. How can this truth comfort you? *Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.*

How does this truth help you when you feel like you are not important? Even when we feel down and don’t think that our work and responsibilities are very important, we can remember that God has placed these things in front of us, and we can thank him for his love by striving to do each one faithfully. He is the one who planned these good works for us to do (Ephesians 2:8).

How does this truth change your perspective on people? When we are working for someone, serving, or helping them, we can remember that God has placed them in our lives and that we

are, in a very real sense, serving God through them (Colossians 3:23-24). We can remember that God is using us and them.

How does this truth help you see the details in how God governs the world? Consider how many people God used to bring you the food you are going to eat tomorrow. Hundreds and maybe even thousands of people were involved in the growing, transportation, and production of the food. God coordinated the whole process to feed you. We can stand in awe of God's providence.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is a creed?
2. What does Trinity mean?
3. How does God the Father continue to care and provide for us?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but make sure that everyone is very clear that a creed is a statement of beliefs, in which we confess our belief in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is only one God, but there are three persons in that one God. We can't comprehend it, but the truth is clearly taught in the Bible. God the Father sometimes uses miracles to provide for us, but also uses common, everyday relationships to provide and to care for his world and the crown of his creation—human beings.

Closing End with a prayer connected to the lesson) or a blessing.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

- **Why do bad things happen if God controls all things?**

This question is obviously complex and emotional. Some of the themes you will want to add to the conversation are the following:

God controls all things; even the devil has to obey him (Job 1).

God uses all things, including the bad things, for the good of his church (Romans 8:28).

The issue of pain and suffering is not a foreign question to the Bible (Job, Genesis 3, 1 Peter, etc.).

Heaven will have no suffering (Romans 7).

The God who controls all things, even bad things, is the God who loves us (Isaiah 45:7).

Possible extra question: What characteristics of God would you like to bring up in a conversation with someone who is struggling with the question of why bad things happen?

- **A bit of history about the Apostles' Creed.**

A creed is a statement of what a person or a group of people believes and teaches. The creed that we will be studying is called the Apostles' Creed because it is a brief statement of the gospel truths which were taught by the apostles.

The Apostles' Creed developed in the early Christian church because people felt a need to have a brief summary of what they believed and taught as Christians. The wording of the Apostles' Creed developed gradually, but it soon was used wherever the Christian church had spread. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another when they met for worship. The Apostles' Creed also was used in the early church to teach children the basic gospel truths of the Bible.

The gospel is summarized by the Apostles' Creed in three parts because the true God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each part of the Apostles' Creed is called an article, and each article tells us what one of the divine persons has done and is still doing to bless us and to save us. Thus the gospel message of the Apostles' Creed is the good news that our God has made us, that he has redeemed us, and that he sanctifies us.

There also are two other Christian creeds that are similar to the Apostles' Creed. They are the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. When some false doctrines about God arose in the early Christian church, these two creeds were written to confess the Bible truth about God and to reject the errors. We will not be studying either of these two creeds, but they are also good to know because we use them at times in our worship services to confess our faith (from Kuske's Catechism, p. 131).

Possible extra question: Some people think that creeds and other doctrinal confessions damage the church. Explain why that is not true.

- **How does faith grow?**

God is certainly the one who makes faith grow through his use of the means of grace (the sacraments and the Word). As Christians who have a New Person living in us who wants to please God, we will want to look for ways to water our faith (in the gospel). We do not want to neglect our faith or, like a plant, let it wither and die.

Possible extra question: How does God strengthen our faith?

