

Lesson 4

God Is a Trinity



Lesson 4 at a Glance



Learning Goals

- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is that God is three Persons in one God.
- The three Persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- God has revealed to us that He is a Trinity
- The Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be are Catholic prayers that invoke the Holy Trinity.



Lesson Plan Chart

DAY 1

	TEACHER'S GUIDE PAGES	STUDENT WORKBOOK PAGES
Warm-Up: Holy Trinity	pg. 62	pg. 26
Activity: The Shamrock	pg. 64	pg. 27
Formative Assessment: Teacher guided activity	pg. 64	N/A

DAY 2

	TEACHER'S GUIDE PAGES	STUDENT WORKBOOK PAGES
Warm-Up: Teacher guided activity	pg. 66	N/A
Activity: God Is a Trinity	pg. 66	pg. 28
Formative Assessment: Teacher guided activity	pg. 67	N/A

DAY 3

	TEACHER'S GUIDE PAGES	STUDENT WORKBOOK PAGES
Warm-Up: The Cross and the Trinity	pg. 69	pg. 29
Activity: Exploring the Trinity	pg. 71	pg. 30
Formative Assessment: Teacher guided activity	pg. 71	N/A



Vocabulary Your Students Will Learn

- A **shamrock** is a traditional symbol of the Trinity. It is a small plant that has three leaves that are separate from each other. The three leaves together make up one shamrock. St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach the people of Ireland about the Trinity.
- The **Sign of the Cross** is a short prayer that reminds us of Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross, and asks for the blessing of the Holy Trinity.
- The **Trinity** is the Christian mystery revealed to us by God that He is three Persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- **God the Father** is the first Person of the Holy Trinity. He is the almighty Creator, who made all things by His Word and His wisdom.
- **God the Son** is the second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is our Savior, who has always existed with the Father. The Father sent the Son into the world in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- **God the Holy Spirit** is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. He makes us holy and guides us to become more like Jesus.
- A **mystery** is something that is true that we can only know if God tells us about it.
- A **person** is a unique individual who can know and love.



Key Scripture Passages

"[W]hen he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

— *John 16: 13*

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit."

— *Matthew 28:19*



Prayer for This Lesson

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

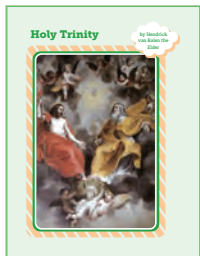
Day 1

Warm-Up

- A.** Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson. Ask your students if this prayer is similar to another prayer they have learned? *Yes, the Sign of the Cross.*



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.



- B.** Next, have your students turn to ***Holy Trinity* by Hendrick van Balen the Elder** on **pg. 26** in the Student Workbook. **Project**  an image of the painting, which can be found at **SophiaOnline.org/Gr1Unit1Lesson4**. Give students several minutes to quietly view the art before you say or ask anything. Allow them to come up and stand closer to the image to examine the details. Once several minutes have passed, ask the following questions:
- What do you first notice about this work of art? *Accept reasoned answers.*
 - Who is shown in this painting? *God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), God the Holy Spirit, and angels.*
 - Ask your students to identify who is who in the image: *God the Father is the older bearded figure on the right wearing gold; God the Son, Jesus, is on the left wearing red robes and holding a banner; and God the Holy Spirit is the shining dove in the center of the painting. The angels are the winged “baby-like” figures throughout the painting.*
 - Why do you think the artist chose to paint God the Father the way he did? God the Son (Jesus)? God the Holy Spirit? *Accept reasoned answers.*
 - What are the Father and the Son standing on? Why do you think they are depicted this way? *The earth. This shows how all things are “under the feet” of the Father and Son, meaning, that they rule over all things.*

Warm-Up Worksheet
(page 26 in the Student Workbook)

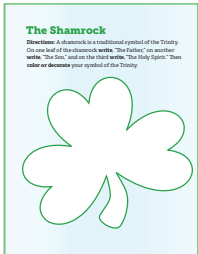
Lesson 4 • Day 1

Holy Trinity

by Hendrick
van Balen the
Elder



DAY 1 > Activity



- A. Begin by having your students turn to **The Shamrock** on **pg. 27** in the Student Workbook. Ask your students what is pictured on the page. A *shamrock*.
- B. Next, explain that a **shamrock** is a traditional symbol of the Holy **Trinity**. It helps us to remember that God is three Persons in one God, just like the leaves of the shamrock. A saint from Ireland named St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Trinity. It has three leaves which are each separate from each other. Yet, the three leaves together make up one shamrock. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are each unique Persons, but are also each fully one God, the Holy Trinity.
- C. Make markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils available to your students. Have them write on one leaf of the shamrock, "The Father," on another write, "The Son," and on the third write, "The Holy Spirit." Then, have them color or decorate their symbol of the Trinity.

DAY 1 > Formative Assessment

- A. As your students decorate their shamrocks, **read aloud** **John 16:12–15** (Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit).

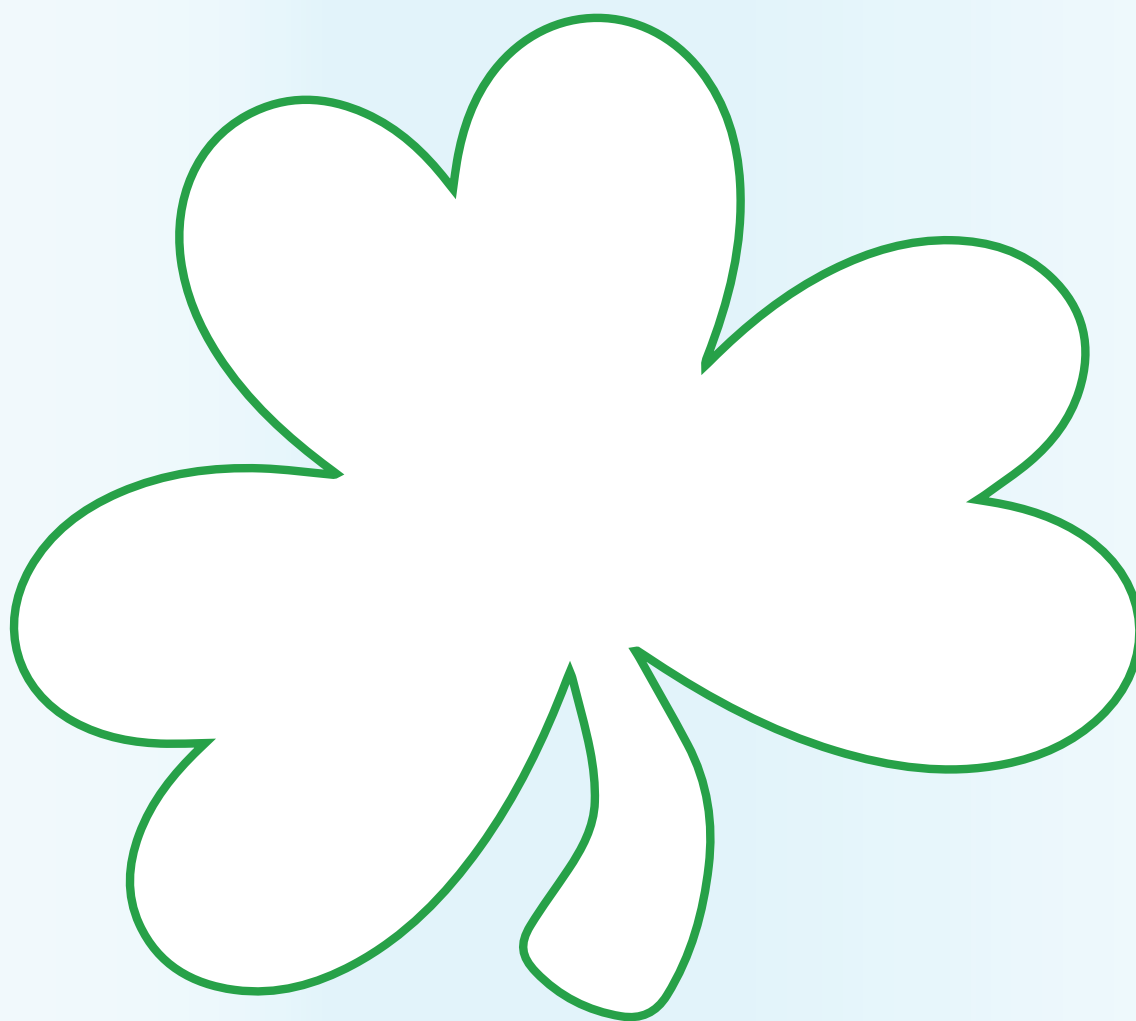
I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.
- B. After reading the Scripture passage, ask your students who sent the Holy Spirit. *Jesus, God the Son, spoke of the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) who would come to speak the truth and glorify Him. Jesus tells us that everything that belongs to the Father is His too.*

Activity Worksheet*(page 27 in the Student Workbook)*

Lesson 4 • Day 1

The Shamrock

Directions: A shamrock is a traditional symbol of the Trinity. On one leaf of the shamrock **write**, “The Father,” on another **write**, “The Son,” and on the third **write**, “The Holy Spirit.” Then **color or decorate** your symbol of the Trinity.



God Is a Trinity

27

Day 2

Warm-Up

- A.** Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

- B.** Have your students stand up and practice making the Sign of the Cross over their bodies, without saying the words. If needed, turn to **Sign of the Cross** on **pg. 2** in the Student Workbook to help demonstrate.
- C.** After making the Sign of the Cross with your students, ask them the following questions:
- When we touch our forehead, in whose name are we blessing ourselves? *God the Father.*
 - When we touch our lower chest, in whose name are we blessing ourselves? *God the Son.*
 - When we touch each of our shoulders, in whose name are we blessing ourselves? *The Holy Spirit.*
- D.** Explain to your students that, as we have been learning, God is a Trinity of Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is three Persons in one God. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are blessing ourselves with a sign of the Holy Trinity.

Activity

God Is a Trinity
Directions: Listen to your teacher read about the Holy Trinity. Then, draw scenes to connect the Persons of the Trinity to one another.

God is a Trinity. Trinity means "three in one." The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity. He is the Creator of all things. Jesus told us about His love for us.

God the Son is the second Person of the Trinity. Jesus is the Son of God. He became man to save us from sin.

God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. God the Father loves the Son. God the Son loves the Father. Their love is the Holy Spirit.

- A.** Begin by turning to **God Is a Trinity** on **pg. 28** in the Student Workbook. Read each caption and have your students circle the Person of the Holy Trinity it is addressing.

- B.** Next, explain to your students that Jesus, the Son of God, is our Savior. God the Father sent the Son into the world. God the Son assumed a human nature and became man. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Jesus gave His life on the Cross to save us from sin. He rose from the dead and went back to Heaven to be with God the Father. Jesus sent God the Holy Spirit to the Church. The Holy Spirit helps us be more like Jesus by filling our hearts with His life and His love.

DAY 2 › Formative Assessment

Have your students stand again and make the Sign of the Cross. Pause at each motion and ask your students the following:

- When touching their foreheads: What does God the Father do? *He is the Creator of all things.*
- When touching their chest: Who is God the Son? *Jesus Christ.* What does He do? *He saves us from sin.*
- When touching their shoulders: What does the Holy Spirit do? *He makes us holy.*

Activity Worksheet*(page 28 in the Student Workbook)*

Lesson 4 • Day 2

God Is a Trinity

Directions: **Listen** as your teacher reads about the Holy Trinity. Then, **draw arrows** to connect the Persons of the Trinity to one another.

God is a Trinity. Trinity means “three in one.” The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity. He is the Creator of all things. Jesus told us about His love for us.

God the Son is the second Person of the Trinity. Jesus is the Son of God. He became man to save us from sin.



God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. God the Father loves the Son. God the Son loves the Father. Their love is the Holy Spirit.

Day 3

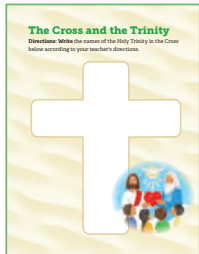
Warm-Up

- A.** Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson. Project the words of the Glory Be on your board and teach them to your students. Then, pray the prayer together.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

- B.** Next, review yesterday's lesson with your students. Ask them to name the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.



- C.** Then, your students turn to **The Cross and the Trinity** on **pg. 29** in the Student Workbook. Label the Cross with the Persons of the Holy Trinity: God the Father on top, God the Son on the bottom, and the Holy Spirit left to right.

Warm-Up Worksheet*(page 29 in the Student Workbook)*

Lesson 4 • Day 2

The Cross and the Trinity

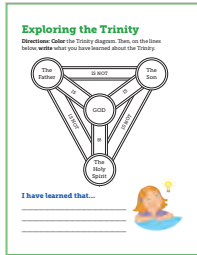
Directions: Write the names of the Holy Trinity in the Cross below according to your teacher's directions.



God Is a Trinity

29

DAY 3 > Activity



A. Begin by having your students turn to **Exploring the Trinity** on **pg. 30** in the Student Workbook. **Project**  an image of the Trinity diagram from this worksheet as a visual aid which can be found at **SophiaOnline.org/Gr1Unit1Lesson4**.

B. Next, explain to your students that the image on the page is a diagram of the Trinity. The Trinity is a **mystery**, which means it is something that we cannot fully understand on our own. God had to reveal this truth to us. Jesus fully revealed the Trinity to us when He spoke to His Apostles for the last time.

C. Then, **read aloud**  **Matthew 28:19** to your students:

 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.

D. Ask your students the following questions:

- What did Jesus tell His Apostles to do? *Make disciples of all nations.*
- In whose name did Jesus tell His Apostles to baptize? *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

E. Next, explain to your students about the mystery of the Trinity. Use the projected diagram of the Trinity to point out the various things you are talking about. Use the following points for your discussion:

- The mystery of the Trinity is that God is three Persons in one God.
- A **person** is a unique individual. Each of us are persons. We are unique individuals. I am not you, and you are not me. You are you and no one else ever can be or will be you.
- God as Trinity is three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is a unique individual. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father, and neither the Father nor the Son are the Holy Spirit. Each is a unique Person.
- Each Person is 100 percent fully God. God is not three gods, nor is each person only partly God. The Father is fully God, the Son is fully God, and the Holy Spirit is fully God.
- This mystery is difficult to fully understand. How something can be both three and one at the same time? We know however, that with God, anything is possible. He has divinely revealed to us that He is Trinity. Therefore, it is true.

DAY 3 > Formative Assessment

A. Make crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils available to your students. Have them color the diagram of the Trinity from **Exploring the Trinity**. Then, help them write a brief response on the lines telling in their own words what they have learned about the Trinity in the past few lessons. If needed, have them say their answers aloud.

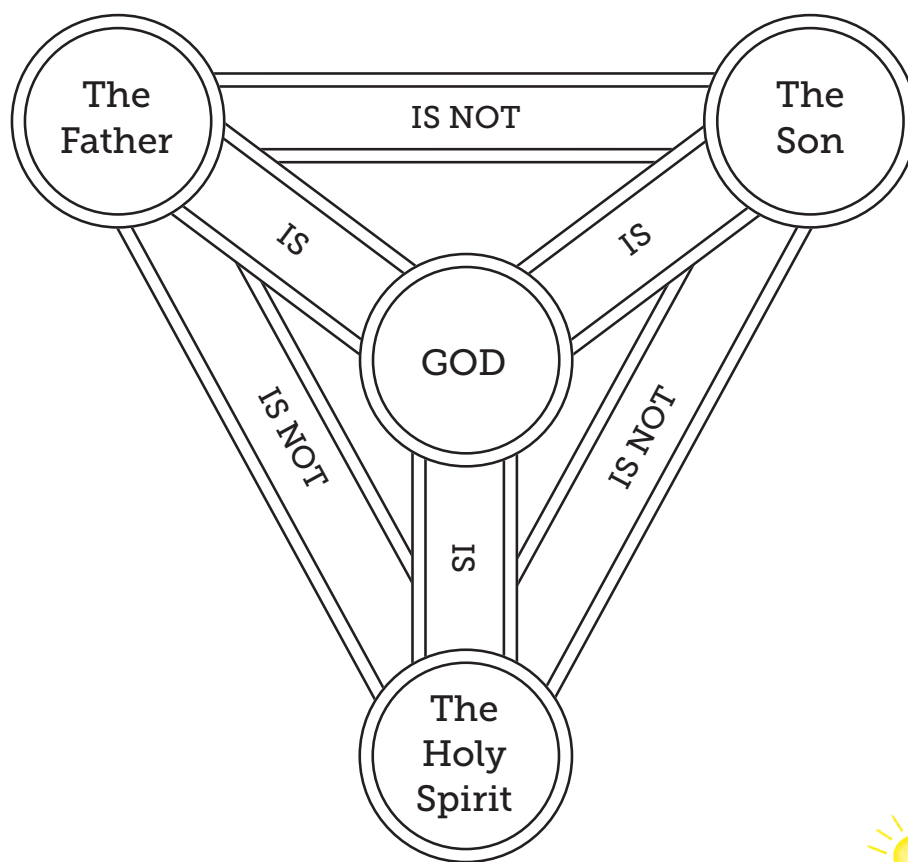
B. Conclude by praying with your students the Glory Be.

Activity Worksheet*(page 30 in the Student Workbook)*

Lesson 4 • Day 2

Exploring the Trinity

Directions: **Color** the Trinity diagram. Then, on the lines below, **write** what you have learned about the Trinity.



I have learned that...



God Is a Trinity

PARENT OVERVIEW



Learning Goals

- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is that God is three Persons in one God.
- The three Persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- God has revealed to us that He is a Trinity
- The Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be are Catholic prayers that invoke the Holy Trinity.



This Week's Family Prayer

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

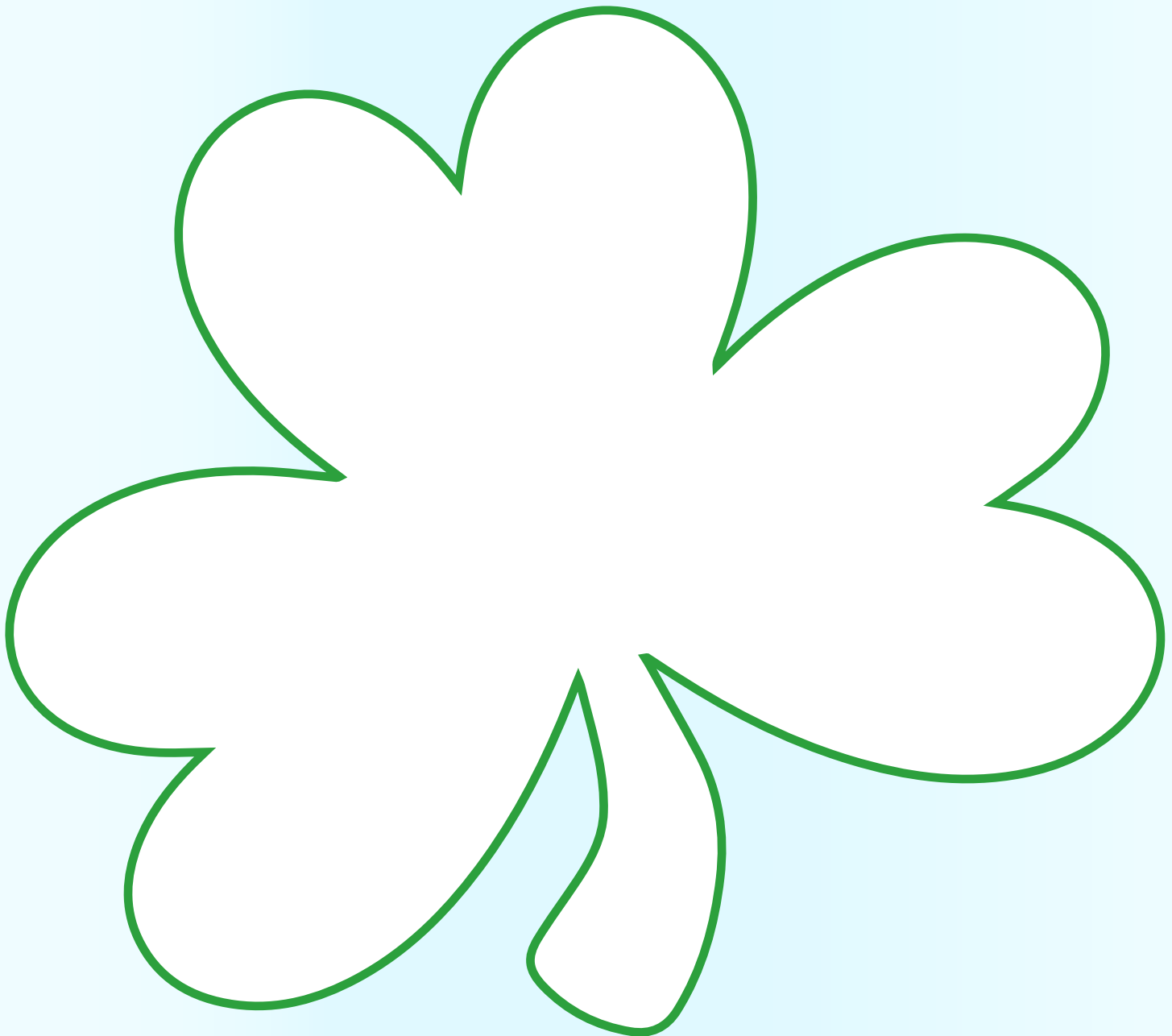
Holy Trinity

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God Is a Trinity

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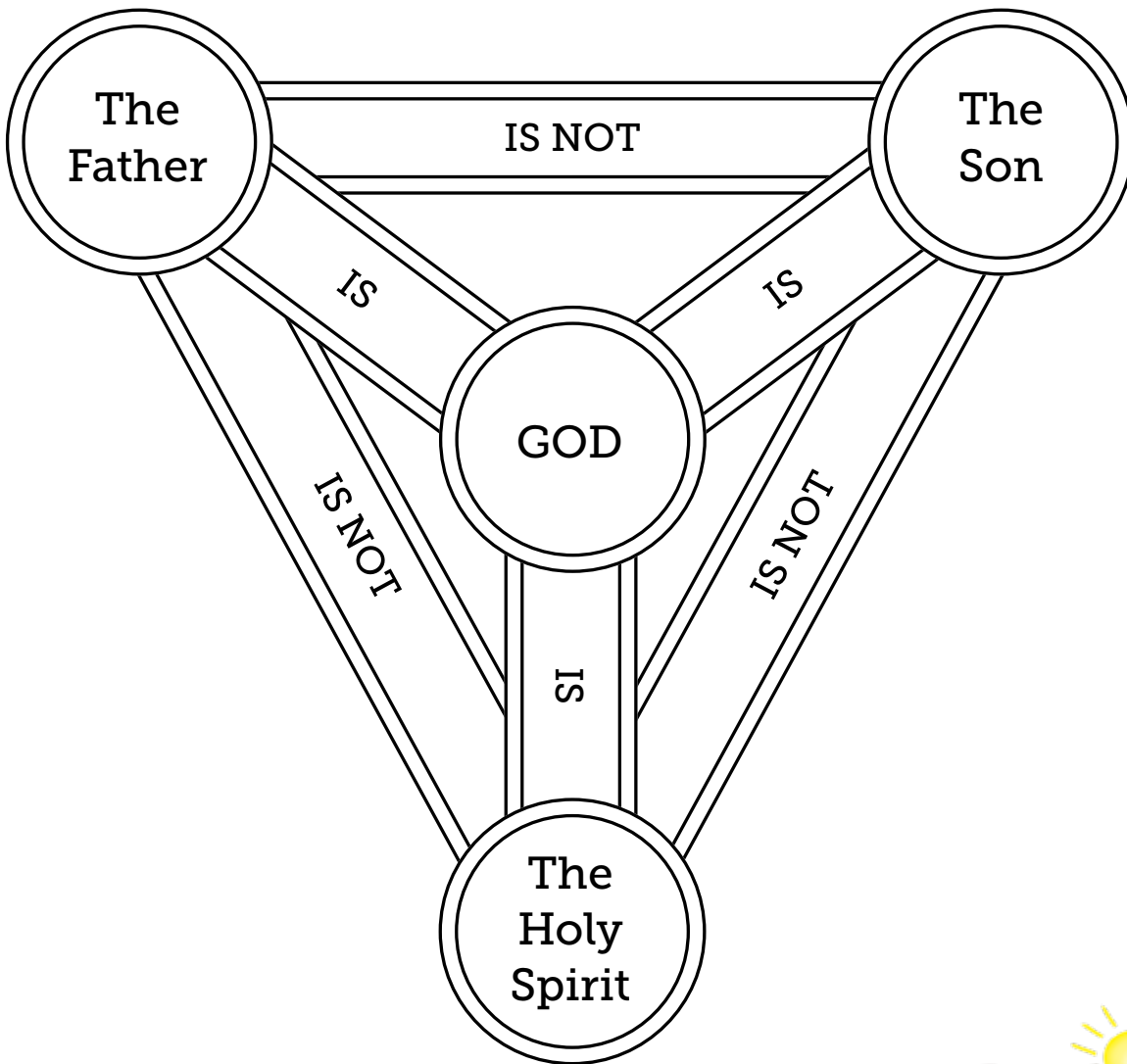
The Cross and the Trinity

Directions: Write the names of the Holy Trinity in the Cross below according to your teacher's directions.



Exploring the Trinity

Directions: **Color** the Trinity diagram. Then, on the lines below, **write** what you have learned about the Trinity.



I have learned that...

