

The 12 Days of Christmas
#4: Three French Hens

Overall objective: to learn about God while singing a silly, fun Christmas song

Objective: to review the Trinity

Step 1: Introduction

We're having fun with a song called "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Some people say that it was written to teach about the Christian faith. Other people say, no, it was just a child's memory-game song. We are using it as a memory-game for the Bible.

Step 2: Sing

So let's sing our song. (sing the whole thing through the 6th day)

Step 3: Review

Let's review what this means. Who is the partridge? (Jesus.) Yes. The partridge will die to save her babies, and Jesus died to save all who believe.

What are the turtledoves? (the two parts of the Bible. The Old and the New Testaments) The Old Testament was finished 400 years before Jesus was born. The New Testament was written after Jesus went back to heaven.

Step 4: Three French hens

Today we're going to talk about the third day of Christmas. **What is the gift on the third day?** (give time.) Three French hens. Birds again. (practice saying)

What could this mean? Any ideas? (wait. Hint: what important threesome is there in Christianity?)

The three French hens will help us to remember the Trinity. (write on board, practice saying) The God of the Bible is a trinity. He is one God, but three persons. This is a mystery. No human person is able to completely understand it.

The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit and the Spirit is not the Father. But the Father is God, the Son is God and the Spirit is God. That's what the Bible teaches.

Let's look in the Bible to see the Trinity. Let's read Mark 1: 9-11. Mark is in the New Testament, of course. Mark is the second book in the New Testament. (read)

Jesus is God the Son. This tells about Jesus' baptism.

Where is God the Father? (The voice from the heavens)

Where is God the Holy Spirit? (coming down like a dove)

This is one place in the Bible where we see the Trinity clearly. We can imagine Jesus the man, in the water. We can imagine the Spirit coming down like a dove. We can imagine hearing the voice of God the Father. But it's hard to imagine how they are all one God!

Step 5: Another passage (if you have the time; if not, skip to Step 6)

The Trinity is very important to Christians. Let's look at another passage. Let's look at Matthew 28:19. Matthew is just before Mark. Just turn one page, and you should find this verse. (read)

How should Christians baptize new believers? (in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

Step 6: Wrapping up

The Trinity is difficult – impossible – to understand. But think of this. Because God is a Trinity, He always had companions. The Father always had the Son and the Spirit, from eternity past. God was never lonely.

Because God is a Trinity, He always had someone to talk to. The Father always had the Son and the Spirit. The God of the Bible is a God who talks about many things, just like talking with a friend.

Finally, because God is a Trinity, He always had someone to love. The Father always loved the Son and the Spirit. The God of the Bible *did not need to create people so He could love*. He created us to join in the love that was already there! The love that Jesus died so that we could share.

Step 7: Any questions or comments?