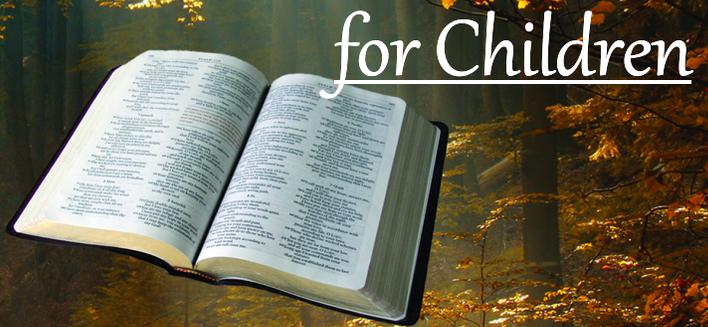


Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Autumn 2014

Lazarus, Come Out!

John 11

Lazarus lived in the little village of Bethany in Judea, and his sisters were Mary and Martha. Mary had anointed Jesus with ointment and wiped His feet with her hair. Lazarus was sick, and his sisters were worried about him. They sent for their friend Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one You love is very sick!"

When Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness isn't to death, but for God's glory, so the Son of God will be glorified." Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and their brother, but He stayed where He was for two more days. Then He said to His disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." The disciples worried because the Jews had tried to kill their Master. Jesus said that Lazarus had fallen asleep, and He was going to wake him. Jesus meant Lazarus had died, but the disciples thought Jesus meant natural sleep. The disciples said he would get better if he was sleeping, and Jesus said, "Lazarus has died. I'm glad for your sakes that I wasn't there, so you will believe. Let's go to him."

When Jesus came near to Bethany, He found that Lazarus had been in the grave for four days. Martha heard Jesus was coming and she went to meet Him. She told Jesus, "If You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died! But I know that whatever You ask of God, He will give it to You."

Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said she knew he would rise in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus told her, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he should die, yet he will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die! Do you believe this?"

Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is come into the world." Then Martha left Jesus and went to tell her sister privately that Jesus had come and was calling for her.

When Mary heard, she rose quickly and went to meet Jesus at the place He had met Martha. The Jews followed her. When Mary came to Jesus, she fell down at His feet. Just like Martha, Mary said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." When Jesus saw her crying, He groaned inwardly

and was very sad. Then Jesus asked where Lazarus was buried. They said, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

Jesus groaned again as He came to the tomb, a cave with a stone lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha exclaimed, "Lord, by this time he stinks! He's been dead for four days!"

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took the stone away. Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and prayed to the Father. When He had finished speaking, He cried with a loud voice:

"Lazarus, come out!"



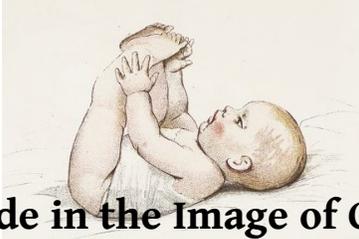
The Raising of Lazarus by Leon Bonnat, public domain

The man who had died came walking out of the grave, his hands and feet wrapped with linen strips and a cloth around his face. Jesus said, "Unwrap him and let him go." Lazarus was alive! Glory to God! Many of the Jews who had followed Mary saw what Jesus did and believed in Him.

Toddlers

Through Three Years

Jesus knows you. He knows your name. He knows what your fingers and toes look like. He knows the color of your eyes. He knows how many hairs are on your head. He even knows when one of your hairs falls out! He made you.



Made in the Image of God

Jesus knows the animals and birds. He made them, too. He knows when a pet gets sick. He knows when a bird gets hurt and can't fly. Jesus says that you are much more precious than any bird.

You are made in the image of God. That means that God made you to be like Him. No other animal or bird is made in the image of God. Only people are made in the image of God. Only people are made like God. People are special and different than animals and birds.

Tots

Four-Six Years

Your name is special. It means you. Your parents gave your name to you when you were born. Your birth certificate has your name on it, and the names of your parents.

When you were baptized, the pastor used your name, baptizing you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Name of God

Sometimes people call God by the name "Jehovah" or "Lord of Hosts" or "LORD God" or "The Almighty," but those are all names for the same true God. The Lord told Moses that His name is I AM THAT I AM, which means that He has always existed and always will exist. God has no beginning and He will have no end.

יהוה

God's name written in Hebrew.
Their letters look funny!

God's name is special and holy. God's name is to be respected and honored. We don't talk about God's name in a silly way or use His name to swear. God wants us to always speak His name in a way that is pleasing to Him, that shows we honor Him and trust Him to save us from our sin. God wants us to tell others about His holy name.

Just like your name means you, God's name means Him. Whether we say God, Lord, Jehovah, or the Almighty God, we mean the one true God who made heaven and Earth, and everything that is in them.

When Jesus stood at the grave of Lazarus, He called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The voice of Jesus calling the dead man back to life was so powerful that Jesus stated exactly *who* He was calling back to life. If Jesus had just said, "Come out!" all the dead people in that cemetery would have risen from their graves.

Here's a song by Mosie Lister about Jesus knowing you:

*My Jesus knows when I am lonely,
He knows each pain, He sees each tear;
He understands each lonely heartache,
He understands because He cares.*

*My Jesus knows when I am burdened,
He knows how much my heart can bear;
He lifts me up when I am sinking,
And brings me joy beyond compare.*

*When other friends seem to forget me,
When skies are dark, when hope is gone;
By faith I feel His arms about me,
And hear Him say, "You're not alone."*

*Chorus: My Jesus knows just what I need,
O, yes, He knows just what I need;
He satisfies, and every need supplies,
Yes, He knows just what I need.*

Jesus gives joy and life that never ends. On the Last Day, Jesus will call us by name, and we will rise up from the dead and we will live forever!

Jesus Knows You

He knows your name. He knows where you live and what you like. He knows what you fear. He knows and He cares. When you are lonely, sick or hurt, Jesus cares. He cares when you cry. He will hear your prayer for help.

When you are happy and joyful, Jesus cares. He cares when you have good health and good friends. He will hear your prayer of thanks.



Tykes

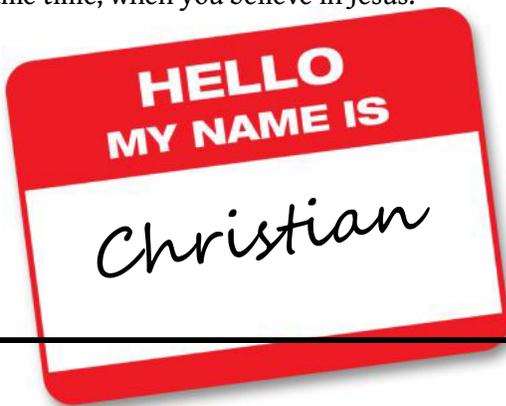
Ages Seven-Ten

Tweens

Eleven-Twelve Years

People use labels. You may have been called a baby, or a fatso, or shorty, or some other name. Some people may not realize that name-calling can hurt your feelings. Sometimes they do realize and use these names anyway.

You are not defined by the names that people call you. There is only one name that describes your life and that is the name of Christian. The name of Jesus the Christ is more powerful and greater than any name or label that people might put on you. Jesus says what you are and who you are. You are both a sinner and a saint, at the very same time, when you believe in Jesus.



The Bible says that when you are a Christian, you are:

- ◆ Blessed
 - ◆ Chosen
 - ◆ Holy
 - ◆ Blameless
 - ◆ Predestined
 - ◆ Adopted
 - ◆ Accepted in the Beloved
 - ◆ Redeemed
 - ◆ Forgiven
 - ◆ Made alive
 - ◆ Raised up
 - ◆ Seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - ◆ Saved by grace through faith
 - ◆ God's workmanship
 - ◆ Created in Christ Jesus unto good works
 - ◆ Justified
 - ◆ Saved from wrath
 - ◆ Reconciled to God
 - ◆ Predestined, called, justified, glorified
- Ephesians 1:3-7, 2:1-10; Romans 5:9-10, 8:30*

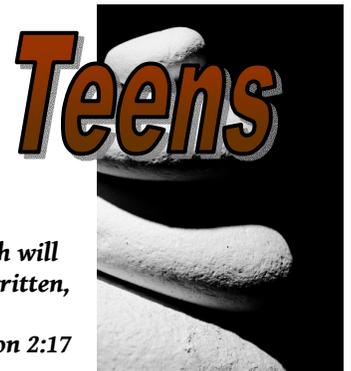
Because you are a Christian, God has given you the special privilege of sharing His Gospel with the people around you. Tell others the Good News about Jesus!

In ancient times, the winner of an Olympic event received a white stone with their name engraved on it, along with the value of the prize they had won. And in Roman times, judges used to cast their vote for a person's guilt or innocence by throwing a stone into an urn; a black stone meant a guilty verdict and a white stone meant not guilty.

A White Stone, A New Name

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:17



Those who overcome will receive a white stone, along with a new name. In the same way the judges did in Roman times, God the Father will give this "not guilty" verdict at the Last Judgment to those who believe. This innocence is gained only by trusting in the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all sin. Salvation through faith alone, by grace alone, is the essence of Christianity, and it is the single thing that secures for us a **white stone**—the verdict of innocence before God. A **new name** will be written in the stone, a name which no one knows except the person who receives it.

Jesus speaks again in the Revelation of the new name: *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

Revelation 3:12

God's name will be written on us, and the name of the city of God. We are purchased, adopted, owned by the Lord Jesus. We were bought with a price and we are the Lord's possession. His Name is engraved in us, and He will never let us go. Satan can accuse us, but we will overcome by the blood of the Lamb. He gives us a new name, His own holy Name!



To the One Who Overcomes

The dictionary says that overcome means: *to defeat, conquer (someone or something); to successfully deal with or gain control of (something difficult).*

In the Revelation, Jesus speaks to seven different churches, correcting and encouraging them. This phrase is repeated to every congregation: “To the one who overcomes...”

These promises are given to the one who overcomes:

- ◆ Jesus will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of God’s Paradise. *Revelation 2:7*
- ◆ Will not be hurt by the second death. *2:11*
- ◆ Jesus will grant to eat some of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone with a new name written on the stone, which no one knows except the one who receives it. *2:17*
- ◆ Jesus will give power over the nations, and will give the morning star. *2:26-28*
- ◆ Will be clothed in white garments. Jesus will never erase his name from the book of life, and Jesus will confess his name before the Father and His angels. *3:5*
- ◆ Jesus will make him a pillar in God’s temple; Jesus will write the name of God on him, and the name of the city of God. Jesus will write His new name on him. *3:12*
- ◆ Jesus will allow him to sit with Him on His throne, just as Jesus overcame and sits with His Father on His throne. *3:21*

This promise is given later in the Revelation: *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Revelation 21:7)*

How do we overcome? By faith in the blood of Jesus. John says, “Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world, and the victory that overcomes the world is our faith. Who is it who overcomes the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4-5)

We will overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by faith in Jesus’ finished work on Calvary. Satan will have no place to accuse us, because the victory is ours. Jesus has won over sin, death and the devil! Thanks be to God for His goodness!

***You’re an overcomer, you are heaven’s heir,
And a crown of life you may ever wear;
So with courage press the battle to the gates,
Till you gain the prize which in heaven waits.***

Charles Naylor

We have only one God, but He is in three different Persons. We use the term *Trinity* to explain how God is Three in One. This word isn’t in the Bible, but the concept of God in three Persons is in the Holy Scripture and the creeds of the Church. The Apostles’ Creed states: I believe in God the Father Almighty; I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; I believe in the Holy Ghost.

Another creed of the Christian faith is the Athanasian Creed. It explains the Trinity in great detail, and it was written because some people had started to teach that the Son was “lower” than the Father, and that the Son was created by the Father. If the Son was *created*, then before He was created He did not exist, which would mean that God the Son is not eternal. The Athanasian Creed was written to correct this false, dangerous doctrine.

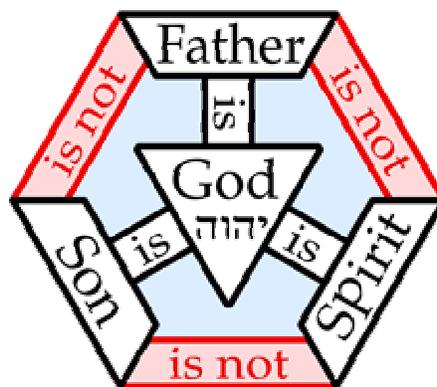
The Trinity—Three in One

The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but one God. The Father has always existed. The Son has always existed. The Holy Spirit has always existed. Father, Son and Spirit are all equal in glory and majesty.

The Athanasian Creed says:

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal.

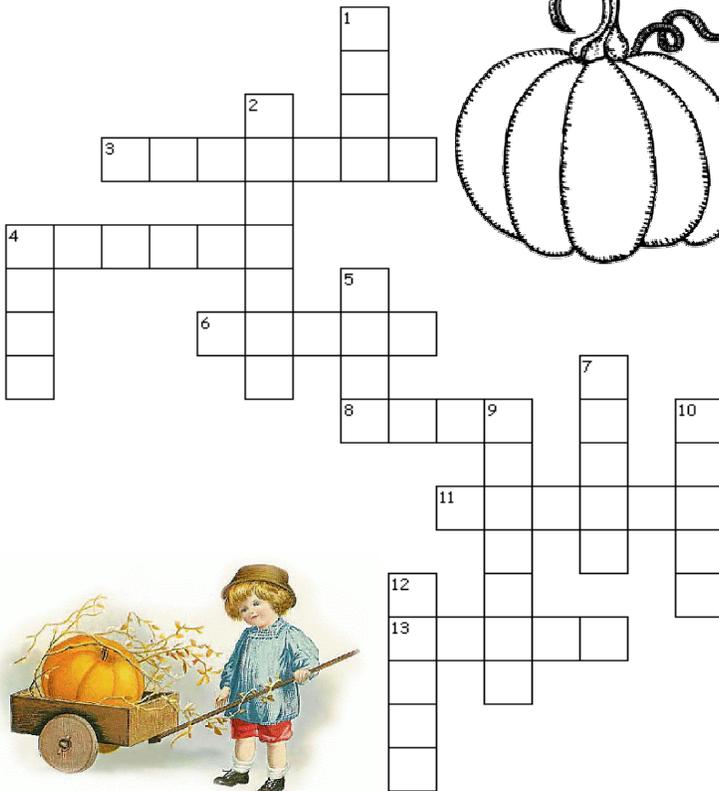
The Father is not made or created or begotten (produced). The Son is not made or created, but begotten of the Father from eternity. The Holy Spirit is not made, created, or begotten, but proceeds (comes from) the Father and the Son. No Person of the Trinity is greater or lesser than the other. All three Persons are eternal together.



This Shield of the Trinity shows the relationship. The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, but the Father is God. The same applies to the Son and Spirit. They are three separate Persons in one eternal Godhead.

This is a very difficult, confusing teaching, so please talk to your parents or pastor if you have questions. And please don’t feel badly if you don’t really understand the Trinity. Adult Christians cannot fully understand this, either, but we all can continue to learn and comprehend more of our Triune God through His Holy Word.

CrissCross



Across

- 3. Sighed sadly
- 4. Lazarus' other sister
- 6. Where Bethany was
- 8. Where Lazarus was buried
- 11. Smells badly
- 13. Cloth wrapped around Lazarus

Down

- 1. Not death
- 2. Jesus raised him from death
- 4. Lazarus' sister
- 5. Cried
- 7. Covered the tomb opening
- 9. Village of Lazarus
- 10. Raised Lazarus
- 12. Majesty



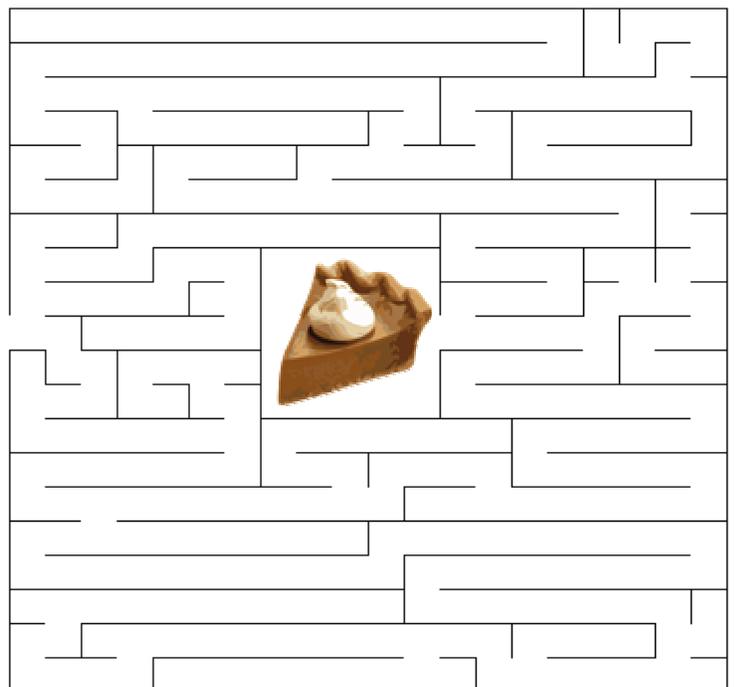
Who Said It?

- Who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" ~Genesis 4:9
- Who said, "What is truth?" ~John 18:38
- Who said, "Let me die with the Philistines." ~Judges 16:30
- Who said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ~Acts 7:59
- Who said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." ~Job 19:25
- Who said, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." ~1 Samuel 3:10

Lazarus, Come Out! Puzzle Fun

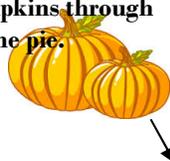
Answer Key: page 7

How many pumpkins are on this puzzle page?



Scrambler

Send the pumpkins through the maze to the pie.



Unscramble these terms about the Triune God.

TAHERF

AILHYTMG

NITTYIR

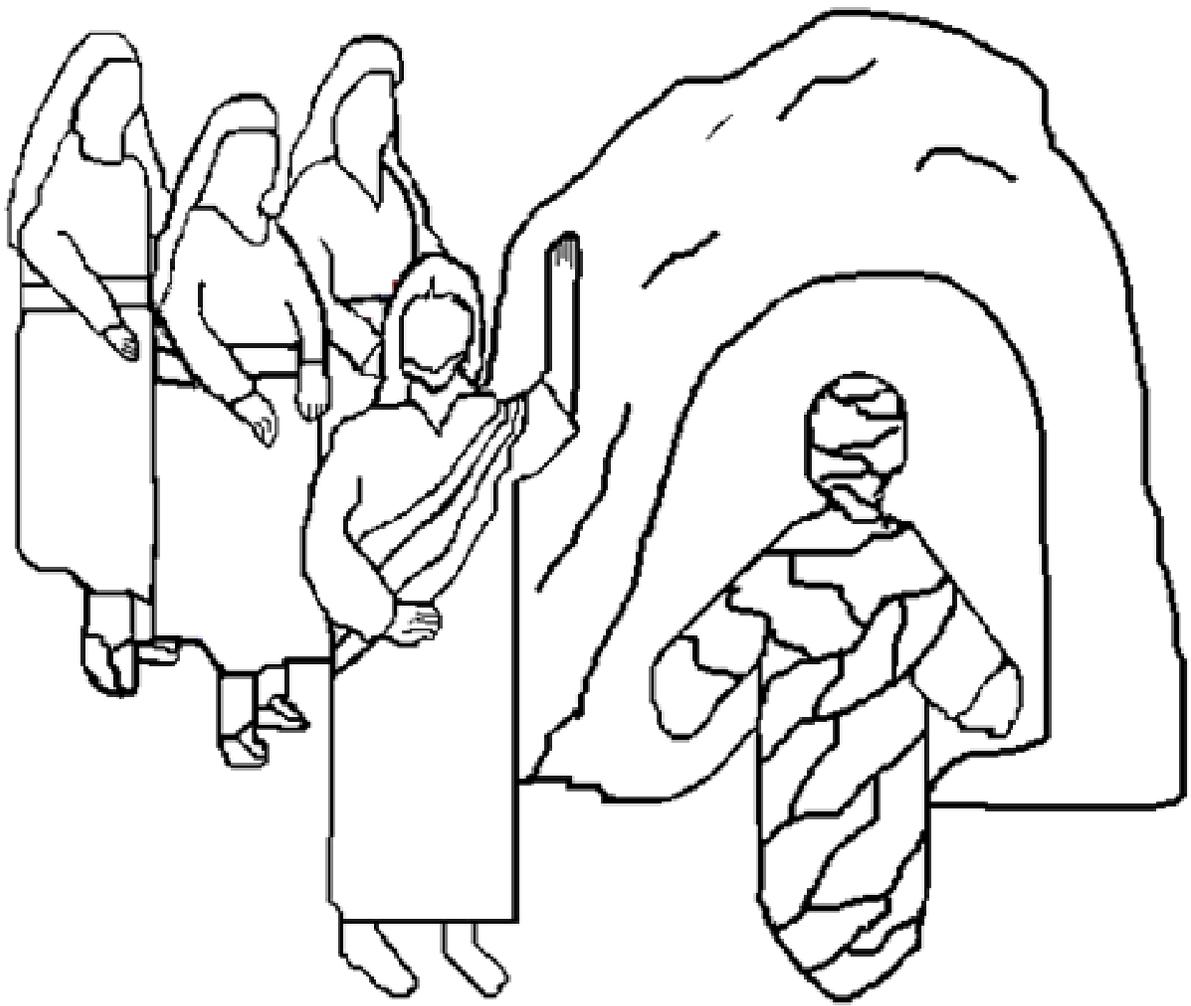
HHOEVJA

RDOL

LYHO IPTRIS

ONS

DGO



"I am the resurrection, and
the life: he that believeth
in me, though he were
dead, yet shall he live"
(John 11:25)



Jesus Wept, by James Tissot, Public Domain

Jesus Wept ~John 11:35

Jesus cried at the grave of Lazarus. Maybe He cried because He was sad for Mary, Martha, and the friends of Lazarus. He was sad that death had come into the world because of sin. The Bible says that when Jesus saw Mary and Lazarus' Jewish friends weeping, He groaned in His spirit and was deeply troubled. When He came to the grave, He groaned again within Himself.

Death is our enemy, the last enemy that shall be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26). Jesus conquered our enemy for us when He gave Himself to die for the sin of the world. He died to bring us eternal life, and because He lives, death is conquered.

Remember when you cry, and when you feel like crying, and when your heart is very sad that Jesus knows your sadness. He understands if you're very sad over the death of a loved one. He will help you through the pain and loss.

Jesus wept. Two little words. The shortest verse in the Bible. You could memorize it in a minute. But it gives us an idea of the depth of Jesus' love for people, and His sorrow over their grief and pain, and His sorrow over sin.

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and Earth, and everything in them. Your name is holy! Thank You for being Three in One—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—all God and all equally worthy of our praise. Help us understand that You are not three Gods, but one Godhead forever, equal in power and majesty.

Thank You for the story of Lazarus, and that You bring the dead back to life. You have brought us out of death to life eternal through Jesus.

Thank You for being so personal that You know when a hair falls from our heads. You know our names; You know our deepest thoughts. Remove our doubts and fears, and give us the strength to overcome the wicked tricks of the devil. Help us to trust in You. Our victory is in You, Lord.

Let us live our lives so that others may know You, the only true God and Savior of the world. Let us love with Your love and be kind to one another.

***Hear us, for Jesus' name's sake,
Amen.***

Christian Monthly for Children Vol. IV—No. 3

Online Subscription: Suggested donation to christianmonthlyalca.org

Send ideas for publication to:

Lois Matson, Editor
CHRISTIAN MONTHLY
PO Box 2996
Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA
Phone: (360) 904-6951
E-mail: cm@apostoliclutheran.org

Address subscriptions, payments,

and Book Concern orders to:
Anders and Clara Sundqvist, Managers
THE BOOK CONCERN
PO Box 2126
Battle Ground, WA 98604-2126 USA
Phone: (360) 896-7344
E-mail: books@apostoliclutheran.org

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

www.apostoliclutheran.org

Western Mission: western@apostoliclutheran.org
Eastern Mission: eastern@apostoliclutheran.org
Foreign Mission: foreign@apostoliclutheran.org

The *Christian Monthly for Children* is published quarterly for electronic distribution by:
Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern
19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606



**Puzzle
Answer Key**

Who Said It?

Cain
Pilate
Samson
Stephen
Job
Samuel

Scrambler

Father
Trinity
Lord
Son
Almighty
Jehovah
Holy Spirit
God

CrissCross

3A Groaned
4A Martha
6A Judea
8A Tomb
11A Sinks
13A Linen
1D Life
2D Lazarus
4D Mary
5D Wept
7D Stone
9D Bethany
10D Jesus
12D Glory

How Many Pumpkins?

There are 18 pumpkins on the puzzle page.

For Parents:

How can one be three? The mathematics of the Trinity are incomprehensible to our natural, logical minds. We allow the paradox to stand, because although the Scriptures don't use the word Trinity, they uphold the teaching that our God is Three in One. If adult minds can't fully understand this concept, how much more confusing must it be to young ones?

Explain the Trinity to your children using care and proper terminology. We do not have three Gods, but one God in three Persons who are equal in majesty and power, each infinitely holy and eternal. Beware of false perceptions of the Godhead: the Father is not an elderly benevolent from whom we expect grandfatherly favors; the Son is not a friend with whom we trade high fives; and the Holy Spirit is not a mystical New Age-type force for good in our lives.

This excerpt from the Athanasian Creed explains the Triune Godhead:

And the catholic [universal Christian] faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty. And yet they are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before or after other; none is greater or less than another; But the whole three Persons are coeternal together, and coequal: so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.

We teach our children, trusting the revelation of the Holy Spirit through the Word. We pray for guidance and words of explanation. The Trinity is far above our finite mental abilities, and we say with St. Augustine:

“We are talking about God; so why be surprised if you cannot grasp it? I mean, if you can grasp it, it isn't God... Certainly it is great bliss to have a little touch or taste of God with the mind; but completely to grasp Him, to comprehend Him, is altogether impossible.”

