



Music and Drama in the Church

The following are three Anglican viewpoints on music and drama. We trust that their words will lead to creative thought, discussion, and exploration, that God might be glorified through the gifts of music and drama in the church.

Music in the Environment of Worship

by Mimi Farra

Music is not an extra added to make our worship more interesting—it is integral to Christian worship. The psalms are full of commands to “sing to the Lord” and the psalmist recounts, “How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!” (Ps. 147:1). Singing is unique among musical expressions because we are both the performer and the instrument. In worship, the joining of many voices makes “one voice” in the offering of praise to God. The message of music touches our hearts and connects us as a community of faith in worship and equips us for life.

Children and Music in the Church

by Jeanne Kohn

To work with children and music within a church parish is to experience the truth that to enter the kingdom of heaven is to draw close to Jesus with the heart of a little child. Because children are gifted in special ways for intimacy with God, it is important to begin teaching them at an early age what it means to worship God through music. Preschool is not too early. By the time children are in first grade, they are already capable of going a step further. They are ready to be taught what it means to serve God in His house, and, in the area of music, what it means to be worship leaders. It is especially important that we teach our children that when they sing in church, they aren't performing. They are sharing their gifts in order to witness to God's goodness and to encourage their brothers and sisters—young and old—in the faith.

IN THIS EDITION this quarter investigates

THE ROLE OF MUSIC AND DRAMA IN WORSHIP

Passing the Torch—
FamilyEdition:
Discover the
Roles of Music and
Drama as a family

Coming up on the
Church Calendar

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities
for Toddlers and
Preschoolers

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities for
Elementary Students

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities
for Youth

Drama as the Telling of the Christian Story

by Rev. Dr. Mark Stevenson

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to share the Gospel, to tell the remarkable story of which we are a part and on which our faith is based. It is the story of our creation by the living God, our redemption through His Savior Son, and our intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

Drama has been and continues to be an important tool in the sharing and teaching of our faith. It may also be an increasingly useful one as we are submerged in a pervasively visual media age. God's story is an inherently dramatic story, and Scripture serves as its primary "script." Scripture recounts these deeds through the written word, but it also reflects the rich and *dramatic* oral tradition. Jesus Himself was a part of this tradition. He would certainly have participated in the interactive dramas celebrating the *Passover* and *Sukkot*, ancient re-creations of God's mighty acts still central to the Jewish tradition.

QUESTIONS

Use the following questions, along with the articles above, to explore and discuss how music and drama fit in your church and your classroom.

What does Colossians 3:16-17 tell us about music and worship? How can you apply this in your classroom?

In the early church, drama was often used to tell the story of Jesus. How can you use drama in your classroom as part of your Bible learning?

Coming Up on the Church Calendar

Early Christians organized their year to remember and celebrate the important events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the beginning of the Church. For more information, consult *The Book of Common Prayer*. Here are a few select events.

Nativity of John the Baptist is celebrated on June 24. We celebrate the birth of John the Baptist on this day because Luke 1 indicates that John was born six months before Jesus. John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were past childbearing years. An angel startled Zechariah by announcing that they would have a son and should call him John. Elizabeth showed more faith than Zechariah in the announcement, but Zechariah's faith shows in his prophecy over his son. Traditional color used in churches is white for joy.

Trinity: A theme to consider during the Season after Pentecost. This Season after Pentecost traditionally was known as "Trinity." God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is affirmed in the Scriptures and the Nicene and Apostle Creeds. The Book of Common Prayer reinforces the Trinity in the services and in the conclusion of most of the prayers. The concept of God as Three in One is impossible to grasp fully, but certain things we know. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit coexist eternally. All participated in Creation. Each member of the Trinity is fully God but is distinct from the others. Green is traditionally used in churches to represent life and growth.

A helpful book on the Trinity is *3 in 1 (A Picture of God)* by Joanne Marxhausen, published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri 2004 (revised edition).

St. Bartholomew is celebrated August 24 on the Church Calendar. Bartholomew is one of the 12 apostles listed in Scripture, but little else is known about him. Early Christian tradition has Bartholomew ministering in India and being martyred in Armenia. Many scholars have concluded that he is Nathanael mentioned in John 1:43-51. However little is said about Bartholomew, he is listed as a follower of Jesus—the most important description. Traditional color used in churches is red to remember his martyrdom.

Passing the Torch Family Edition

Family Discoveries Family Movie Night with a Critic

Add a twist to family movie nights by becoming a family of movie critics. Not only will you enjoy watching a movie together, you will also help the members in your family to critically view what they are watching and how what they are seeing meshes with your family's views and morals.

Many movie critics have a rating system, such as a rating of 1-5 stars. Develop a simple rating system that fits all ages of your family. We've included some discussion questions to share together after the movie. You may want to talk through the questions before rating the movie—adapting them to fit your family.

Are you wondering what movie to watch? Do an online search for family movie reviews to find several sites which give ideas and reviews of movies and their appropriateness for families.

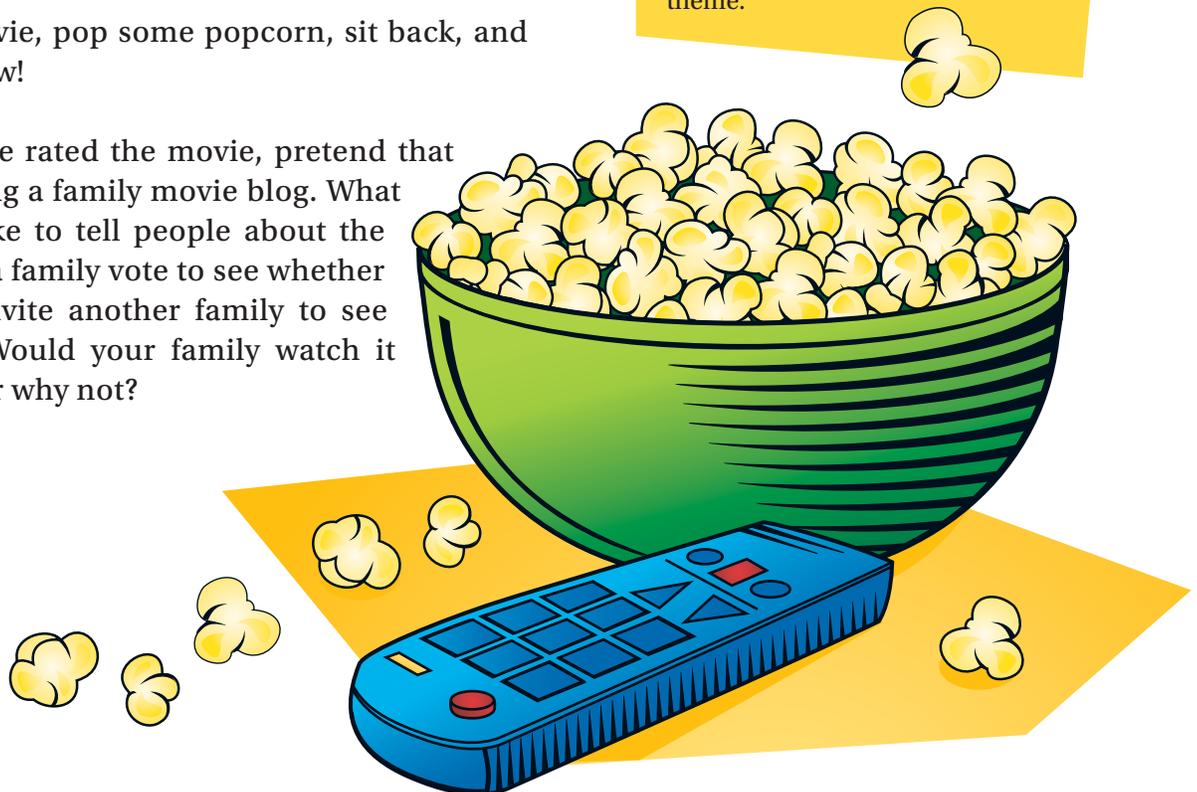
Pick up a movie, pop some popcorn, sit back, and enjoy the show!

After you have rated the movie, pretend that you are writing a family movie blog. What would you like to tell people about the movie? Take a family vote to see whether you would invite another family to see this movie. Would your family watch it again? Why or why not?

Questions to Ponder*

1. Who is your favorite character? Why?
2. What is the message or theme this movie is trying to say? Do you agree or disagree with it?
3. Do the ideas show reality? How about truth?
4. What opinion does the movie have about God?

* For toddlers and preschoolers, talk about who is in the movie and a very simple theme. Talk about what you like about the characters and the theme.



Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Toddlers In Your Toddler/2 Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Celebrate **Drama** “toddler style” by putting out small robes and baby dolls in the dress up area. Invite the children to act out being the different characters in the Bible story families during the month.

Materials: A paper plate for each child, a craft stick for each child, marker, coloring utensils, tape or glue
Celebrate the **Nativity of John the Baptist** on June 27. Before class, use the marker to write “Jesus loves us!” on each plate. Use the tape or glue to attach each plate to a craft stick to make a sign. **We celebrate the birthday of John the Baptist. He told people that Jesus was coming. We can tell people about Jesus too.** Give each child a sign and let them decorate the signs. Have a parade around your classroom or the church, waving the signs and calling out: “Jesus loves you!”

July Activities

Materials: Rice, epoxy, small containers with tight fitting lids
Emphasize **Music** during the month of July. Make shakers for little hands. Fill the containers 1/3 full of rice. Then, epoxy the lids to each container and allow to dry. (Follow all the directions and precautions on the epoxy label carefully.) In class, give each child a shaker. Show how to move the shaker to make sounds as they listen to music or as you sing songs together.

Materials: Coloring utensils, copies of page 12 for each child
Celebrate the **Trinity Season** during July. Give each child a copy of the heart and have them color it. **The Trinity means that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The heart has three parts that make one heart just like God is made up of three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**



August Activities

Continue to discover **Music** throughout the month. Prepare a special song about Jesus and perform it for parents at the end of the month. Use the shakers to accompany the song.

Materials: Paper folded in half, pen, coloring utensils
Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He told people that Jesus loves them.** Help the children make cards for people they know. Write “Jesus loves you!” on the front of each child’s card. On the inside write “I love you too!” and write the child’s name. Let them decorate the cards.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Preschoolers In Your Preschool Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Celebrate **Drama** "preschool style" by putting out small, old adult-sized T-shirts, towels, and lengths of rope in a dress-up area. As an alternate Step 3 activity, let children act out the Bible characters from the day's story using the shirts as robes, the towels as headpieces, and the rope as belts.



Materials: A paper plate for each child, a craft stick for each child, marker, coloring utensils, tape or glue

Celebrate the **Nativity of John the Baptist** on June 27. Before class, use the marker to write "Jesus loves us!" on each plate. Use the tape or glue to attach each plate to a craft stick to make a sign. **We celebrate the birthday of John the Baptist. He told people that Jesus was coming. We can tell people about Jesus too.** Give each child a sign and let them decorate the signs. Have a parade around your classroom or the church, waving the signs and calling out: "Jesus loves you!"

July Activities

Materials: Rice, epoxy, small containers with tight fitting lids

Emphasize **Music** during the month of July. Make shakers for little hands. Fill the containers 1/3 full of rice. Then, epoxy the lids to each container and allow to dry. (Follow all the directions and precautions on the epoxy label carefully.) In class, give each child a shaker. Show how to move the shaker to make sounds as they listen to music or as you sing songs together.

Materials: Coloring utensils, copies of page 12 for each child, resealable plastic bags

Celebrate the **Trinity Season** during July. Give each child a copy of page 12 to color and cut into a puzzle. **The Trinity means that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The heart has three parts that make one heart just like God is made up of three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

August Activities

Continue to discover **Music** throughout the month. Prepare a special song about Jesus and perform it for parents at the end of the month. Use the shakers to accompany the song.

Materials: Paper folded in half, pen, coloring utensils

Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He told people that Jesus loves them.** Help the children make cards for people they know. Write "Jesus loves you!" on the front of each child's card. On the inside write "I love you too!" and write the child's name. Let them decorate the cards.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Early Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Emphasize **Music** during the month of June. Choose a song regularly sung in your church. It could be part of the liturgy. Ask a church musician to come teach the piece. One way we worship God is by singing. Introduce the piece the class is going to learn. Talk about its meaning. Then teach the song line by line.

Materials: A length of butcher paper, coloring utensils

Celebrate the **Nativity of John the Baptist** on June 27. Write "Getting Ready" on the piece of butcher paper. **Nativity means birth. John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus. His parents thought they would never have children until an angel announced that they would have a son and should call him "John." As a man, John told people to get ready for Jesus.** Have the children write or draw things they do to get ready for an important person coming. Hang the poster in the classroom.

August Activities

Continue to discover **Music and Drama** throughout the month. Have children choose and sing favorite praise songs as part of the prayer time at the end of each lesson. Add a box of costumes to your classroom for children to act out the Bible story in costume.

Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22 by following his example. Prepare a one-day service project for the children to participate in. For example, have them help sort the markers and crayons in their classroom or draw

July Activities

Materials: Three chenille stems of different colors for each child, 1 foot lengths of yarn for each child
Introduce the **Season after Pentecost: Trinity. The Season after Pentecost is also known as the season of Trinity. We believe in God the Father.** Set out one chenille stem as a side of a triangle. **We believe in God the Son.** Set out a second color chenille stem as another side of the triangle. We believe in God the Holy Spirit. Finish the triangle with a third chenille stem. **The triangle reminds us of the Trinity.** Help the children twist the ends of their chenille stems together to make a triangle. Add a yarn loop for a hanger. Children can hang their triangles as a reminder of the Trinity.

Use **Drama** as a way to praise God. Read aloud the different phrases of Psalm 23. Ask what kind of motions the children think would fit each line. After hearing ideas, read Psalm 23 aloud again with the children supplying the motions.

pictures for elderly members of the congregation. If you have a large class, set up different projects at different tables and have the students rotate from table to table. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Jesus' disciples did many things. They told people the Good News that Jesus loved them and helped other believers. We can serve other Christians just like the disciples did.**

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Emphasize Music during the month of June. Invite a church musician to teach a song regularly sung in your church. It could be part of the liturgy. One way we worship God is by singing. Introduce the piece the class is going to learn. Talk about its meaning. Then teach the song line by line.

Materials: A length of butcher paper, coloring utensils
Celebrate the **Nativity of John the Baptist** on June 27. Write "Getting Ready" on the piece of butcher paper. **Nativity means birth. John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus. His parents thought they would never have children until an angel announced that they would have a son and should call him "John." As a man, John told people to get ready for Jesus.** Have the children write or draw things they do to get ready for an important person coming. Hang the poster in the classroom.

July Activities

Materials: Three chenille stems of different colors for each child, 1 foot lengths of yarn for each child

Introduce the **Season after Pentecost: Trinity. The Season after Pentecost is also known as the season of Trinity. We believe in God the Father. We believe in God the Son.** Set out one chenille stem as a side of a triangle. **We believe in God the Son.** Set out a second color chenille stem as another side of the triangle. **We believe in God the Holy Spirit.** Finish the triangle with a third chenille stem. **The triangle reminds us of the Trinity.** Help the children twist the ends of their chenille stems together to make a triangle. Add a yarn loop for a hanger. Children can hang their triangles as a reminder of the Trinity.

August Activities

Use **Drama** as a way to praise God throughout the month. Say each line of Psalm 100. Ask what kind of motions would fit each line. Then, read Psalm 100 aloud again with the children supplying the motions.

Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22 by following his example. Talk to your pastor and prepare a service project for the children to participate in. For example, have them clean and organize their classroom or write letters to elderly members of the congregation. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Jesus' disciples did many things. They spread the Good News that Jesus loved them so much that He died for them and rose again. They also served other believers. We can serve other Christians just like the disciples did.**

HERO FOR CHRIST

(use during July)



Arabella Katherine Hankey

WHEN SHE LIVED:

1834–1911

WHAT SHE DID:

Arabella Hankey loved to tell stories of Jesus. She told Bible stories to the children in her Sunday school, but she did not stop there. She read the Bible with shop girls in London. Arabella Hankey also liked music. She wrote the hymn, "Advent Tells Us Christ Is Near" to teach the Church Year. Arabella wanted everyone all over the world to hear the story of Christ, so she gave a lot of her money to missions. One of her songs says, "I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love."

Hero for Christ: Activity

Materials:

Paper, coloring utensils

One way we can tell people about Jesus is by using pictures to tell Bible stories. Give your students time to draw a scene from one of their favorite stories about Jesus. Then, have each child tell the story to the class.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Upper Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Materials: A piece of butcher paper, markers, Bibles

June 27 is the **Nativity of John the Baptist**. As an Extra Time Activity, write "John the Baptist—His Mission" on a piece of butcher paper. **John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus. An angel told his father that he would have a son and should call him John. As an adult, John preached that the Messiah was coming soon. He was called "the Baptist" because he baptized people who wanted to show sorrow for their sins.** Have students read Luke 1:76-79 for some of the words John's father Zechariah spoke over him. Have the children work together to write or draw a job description for John.

August Activities

Discover **Drama** throughout the month. Plan a dramatic reading of the Bible passages for the week. Plan ahead so that they have a week to plan and practice their readings. Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22 by following his example. Talk to your pastor and prepare a service project for the children to participate in. For example, have them clean and organize their classroom or write letters to elderly members of the congregation. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Jesus' disciples did many things. They spread the Good News that Jesus loved them so much that He died for them and rose again. They also served other believers. We can serve other Christians just like the disciples did.**

July Activities

Materials: Copies of page 13 of this supplement, pencils

Introduce the Season after Pentecost: Trinity. The Season after Pentecost is also known as the Trinity season. We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This symbol reminds us that God is Three in One and that God is eternal. There are three parts of this symbol and they are all connected. God never ends. Have students label each part of the symbol for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Then see if they can trace the symbol without lifting their pencils. Emphasize **Music** during July. Bring in a digital music player and speakers. Each week, play a variety of hymns and praise songs. Talk about how each song praises God.

HERO FOR CHRIST

(use on June 6; June 5 on the Church Calendar)



Boniface

WHEN HE LIVED: c. 675-754

WHAT HE DID: Boniface, the missionary, worked hard to cut down an oak tree. The tree was the "Sacred Oak of Thor." The German people of that day believed it belonged to the fierce thunder god, Thor. Surely he would strike Boniface dead. But when Boniface was done, he got up on the stump and told them about the power of Jesus. The people listened and many became followers of Jesus.

Years later in another country, Boniface was killed while confirming believers. His emblem is a sword or an ax in a book.

Hero for Christ: Activity

Materials: Paper, coloring utensils

Boniface did many amazing things and his emblem reflects the sacrifice he made. What would you want your emblem to look like? Have the students draw their own emblems. Let students explain their symbols.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your Middle School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Materials: Prayer books

Throughout the month of June, explore **worship and drama**. Open the prayer books to the order of service that is used for each Sunday. Talk through the service together. **How is the service like an interactive drama? What do we dramatically relive or what message is given?** (Emphasize the Gospel.) Have a short worship time with volunteers reading portions of the service with the emphasis they think is needed.

Materials: Bibles

Celebrate the **Nativity of John the Baptist** on June 27. **We celebrate on this day as Luke 1 indicates that John was born six months before Jesus. John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were past childbearing years. An angel announced to Zechariah that they would have a son and to call him John. Zechariah showed his faith in God in a prophecy about his son.** Divide the class into small groups. Have each group read Luke 1; John 1:1-18, and John 3:22-36. Ask each group to compare their attitude to John's in John 3:30.

July Activities

Materials: Prayer books, copies of page 13 for each student, writing utensils

In July, take a look at the **Season after Pentecost** also known as **Trinity. As Christians, we believe in the Trinity. The Trinity is hard to describe completely. Look up the Nicene Creed in the Prayer Book. How is the Trinity described there?** Have the students write down how the symbol reflects the relationship of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Encourage them to try tracing the symbol without lifting their pencil.

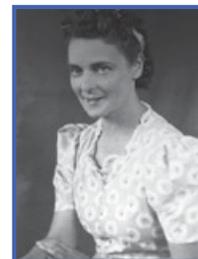
Explore **worship and music** this month. Challenge your students to set the day's Bible Verse to a variety of music types. Have them perform their verses at the end of the lesson.

August Activities

Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22 by following his example. Talk to your pastor and prepare a service project for your young teens to participate in. For example, have them clean and organize their classroom or write encouraging notes to elderly members of the congregation. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples, but little else is said about him. Early Christian tradition says that Bartholomew was a missionary to India and Armenia. Some have speculated that he is Nathanael mentioned in John 1:43-51. Even though we don't know much about Bartholomew's life before meeting Jesus, we do know what all the disciples did after meeting Jesus. They followed Him. They spread the Gospel and served others.**

BACK IN TIME

(use on August 5 or 12)



Jan Struther

1901–1953

Westminster, England

WHAT SHE DID: Jan Struther, the pen name for Joyce Anstruther, used her gift with words to write hymns.

She grew up in Westminster, England and loved scouting, camping, and carpentry. Her newspaper columns were so popular they were published as a book, *Mrs. Miniver*, in 1939 and later turned into a movie.

One of Jan Struther's friends was the Rev. Percy Dearmer, a Canon of Westminster Abbey. He asked her to write a hymn. "Lord of all Hopefulness" (#482, The Hymnal 1982) was the result. Her other hymn in the hymnal is about Saint Stephen.

Jan Struther's best-known hymn echoes the rhythm of our days:

*"Be there at our waking, and give us
we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day;*

*"Be there at our labors, and give us,
we pray, Your strength in our hearts,
Lord, at the noon of the day;*

*"Be there at our sleeping, and give us,
we pray, Your peace in our hearts,
Lord, at the end of the day."*

Back in Time Discussion

Distribute note cards to the class. Ask your students to write down a gift or talent they possess. On the back of the card, have them write three ways they could use that talent to serve God.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your High School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

June Activities

Materials: Prayer books

Throughout the month of June, explore **worship and drama**. Open the prayer books to the order of service that is used for each Sunday. Talk through the service together. **How is the service like an interactive drama? What do we dramatically relive or what message is given?** (Emphasize the Gospel.) Have a short worship time with volunteers reading portions of the service with the emphasis they think is needed.

Materials: Bibles

Celebrate the Nativity of **John the Baptist** on June 27. **We celebrate on this day as Luke 1 indicates that John was born six months before Jesus. John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were past childbearing years. An angel announced to Zechariah that they would have a son and should call him John. Zechariah showed his faith in God in a prophecy about his son.** Divide the class into small groups. Have each group read Luke 1; John 1:1-18, and John 3:22-36. Ask each group to compare their attitude to John's in John 3:30.

July Activities

Materials: Prayer books, copies of page 13 for each student, writing utensils

In July, take a look at the **Season after Pentecost** also known as **Trinity**. **As Christians, we believe in the Trinity. Look up both the Apostle Creed, and the Nicene Creed in the Prayer Book. How is the Trinity described there?** Have students write how the symbol reflects the relationship of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Encourage them to try tracing the symbol without lifting their pencils. How does this interconnectedness help us understand the Trinity?

August Activities

Explore worship and music throughout the month. Challenge your students to set the day's Bible Verse to a variety of music types. Have them perform their verses at the end of the lesson.

Materials: Bibles

Celebrate **St. Bartholomew** on August 22. **St. Bartholomew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Early Christian tradition has Bartholomew ministering in India and being martyred in Armenia. While little is known about Bartholomew, he is listed as a disciple of Jesus, and we do know the disciples followed Jesus after meeting Him. They spread the Gospel and served other believers. The disciples left us an excellent example to follow, and as Scripture indicates, they were following the heart of God.** Read the following verses: Psalm 68:5, Acts 6:1-7, James 1:27, Philippians 2:1-11. Brainstorm for ways you as a class can serve as the disciples did. Decide on one project to carry out and begin planning for it. (Examples: Host a lunch or tea for the elderly members of the congregation. Volunteer to do yard work for a shut in.)

BACK IN TIME

(use on July 25; July 30 on the Church Calendar)

William Wilberforce

1759–1833,

England

William

Wilberforce

is best known

for his efforts

to abolish the

slave trade in

England. Wilberforce was born to

a rich, influential family and spent

his career in Parliament. After

coming to know the Lord in 1784,

Wilberforce contemplated leaving

Parliament to enter the ministry

until John Newton convinced him

that he could serve the Lord with

politics. William Wilberforce worked

tirelessly for decades speaking

against slavery and submitting

bills to outlaw the practice. He also

helped found the British and Foreign

Bible Society and the Church

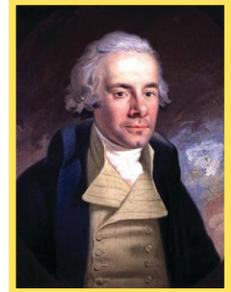
Missionary Society, and convinced

Parliament to allow missionaries

in India. Publicly and privately,

Wilberforce was known as a

generous and devout man.

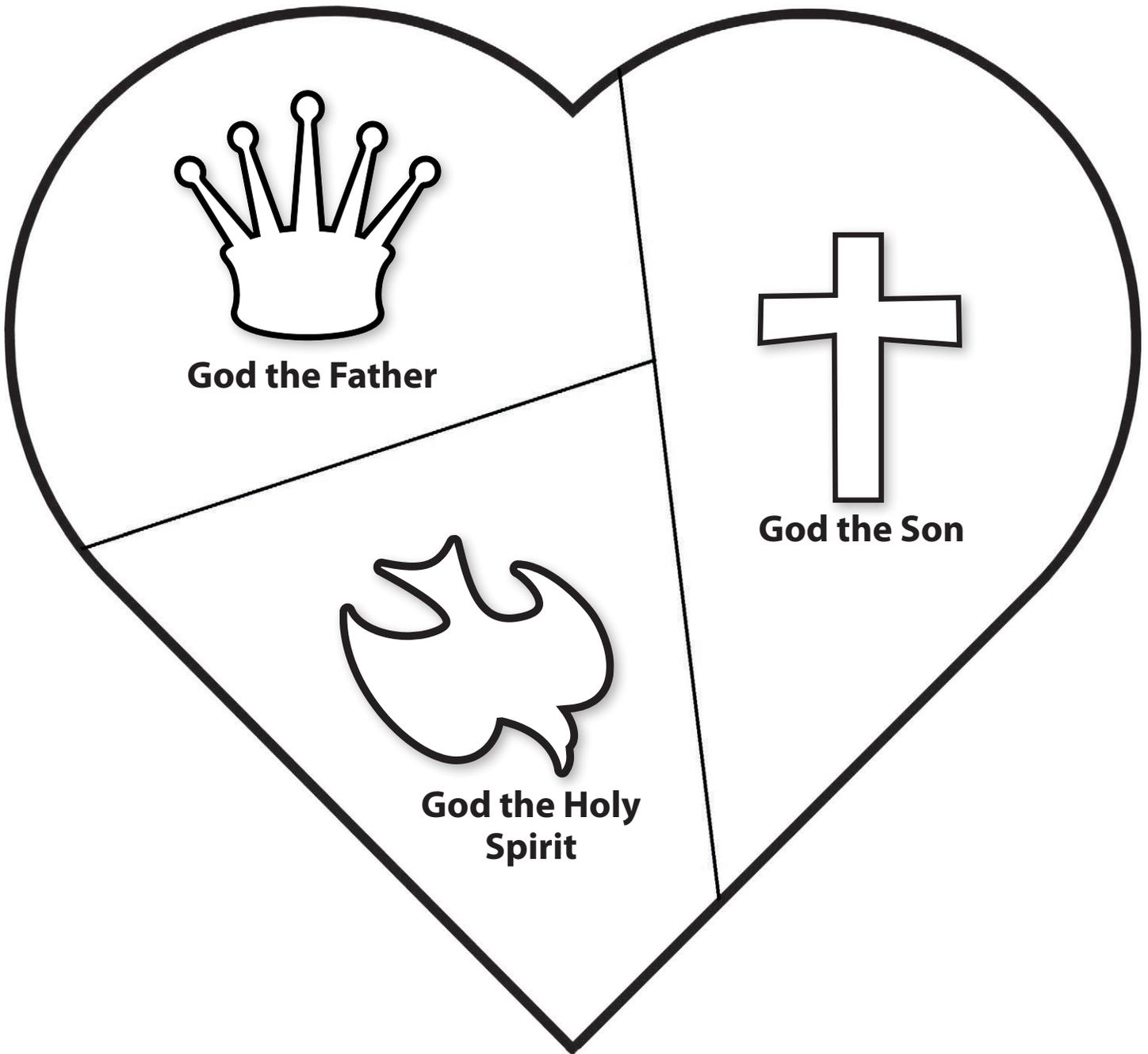


Back in Time: Discussion

Why do you think Wilberforce cared passionately about human rights?

Write down how you can be a blessing where you are.

Trinity Heart



Print off a copy of the puzzle for each child. Cut out the large heart. After talking about the Trinity, give the hearts to the children. Talk about how we have one God. Help the children cut apart the puzzle into three parts. Talk about each part, then put the puzzles back together as one heart. Send the puzzles home in resealable plastic bags.

The Season after Pentecost: Trinity

