

The background is a solid blue color. At the top, there is a row of colorful brushstrokes in yellow, orange, white, green, and blue. On the left, an elderly woman with grey hair, wearing a pink shirt and a purple skirt with a red sash, has her hands clasped in a prayer-like gesture. On the right, a young man with brown hair, wearing a brown sweater, is holding up a glowing yellow lightbulb. In the bottom left, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a blue sweater, is sitting and looking up with her hand to her ear. In the bottom right, a young man with dark hair, wearing a green t-shirt, is sitting and looking thoughtful with his hand on his chin. There are large, stylized wavy shapes in yellow and orange in the background. A large white speech bubble is in the center, containing the title and subtitle.

Te Whānau o Wairua Tapu

The Family of the Holy Spirit

Where to?

This series is designed for primary aged children and covers 3 lectionary weeks; May 24th – June 7th 2026.

In the Anglican calendar we celebrate three things during this time that all relate to the wonderful diverse family of God.

Firstly Pentecost Sunday, where we celebrate how Wairua Tapu, the Holy Spirit, came and lived inside Jesus' disciples, empowering them to share the good news to EVERYBODY in their own languages, extending the welcome to God's family, outside of Israel. Secondly we celebrate Trinity Sunday, where we look at how God IS a family.

And in the final week of our series, we celebrate Te Pouhere Sunday, where we look at how God's family in Aotearoa has many different ways to serve and love, but we are all united by God.

Key Themes

Unity within diversity
God's Big Beautiful Whānau
Wairua Tapu who makes it all happen
We are each uniquely made to love God and others.



Created by:



For Lectionary Year A:
May 24th – June 7th 2026.

Key:

Each lesson has these components.
You know your tamariki best, choose what works for you!



Whakaaro
Reflection



Kupu Hou
New Words



Whānau
Whānui
Intergen



Matau
Hook



Kōrero
Story



Karakia
Prayer



Tākaro
Play



Hanga
Create

Let us know!

This resource is created for the use of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki.

If you're not part of our diocese and you'd like to use this material, we'd love to share!

Please let us know you are keen by emailing
cfmenabler@wtanglican.nz

Week 1 May 24th



Whakaaro/ Reflection

This week tamariki will learn about how during Pentecost, Wairua Tapu came to live inside Jesus' disciples, empowering them to love and serve each other as God's Whānau.

Check out [this Bible Project video](#) which places the Pentecost story within the bigger biblical narrative.

Discussion:

In the Greek New Testament (John 14-16), Jesus refers to the Spirit with gender neutral terms. In Hebrew, the Spirit or Ruach is a female word.

How do you address the Holy Spirit? How was this handed down to you through God's whānau?



Pentecost God's Big, Beautiful Whānau.

Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."





Kupu Hou/ New Words

Wairua = Spirit

Wairua Tapu = Holy Spirit

Ka ringihia (pour) e ahau taku Wairua
ki nga kikokiko (flesh) katoa (all):

A e poropiti (prophecy) a koutou
tamariki (boys), a koutou tamahine
(girls)

Acts 2:17a

Wairua Tapu is a great simple song
for tamariki to learn.
Have them make their own mahi ringa
(actions) to go with it.



Whānau Whānui/ Intergenerational

Pentecost Feast!

One of the great traditions within
the Anglican church is having a
feast to celebrate!

Organise a Pentecost potluck feast
and ask people to bring a dish that
means something to them. Provide
cards to write a small blurb about
their dish, or ask people to share
briefly about why it is special to
them during dinner (if your group is
small!)

Extra for Experts: Collect recipes,
stories and photos to form a
Pentecost Recipe Book.

Hand out small candles to your
congregation. Use a large/paschal
candle to light two smaller candles
that a child and adult can take
down the aisles to “pass” the light
onto the rest of the congregation.



Matau/ Hook

Waiting.....

Prepare a snack that tamariki will need
to wait for..... popcorn popping, cookies
that need a bit longer in the oven.
sandwiches that still need spreads put
on....

While they wait **ask**:

What's the longest you've ever had to
wait?

What makes waiting hard?

Say: In today's story we are going to
hear about Jesus' disciples who were
waiting..... and scared..... what might
they have been waiting for?

(If you covered ascension last Sunday,
and the Whai Mai! course, ask them
what Jesus said would happen after he
left, and what they should do in the
meantime.)

Jesus had promised his disciples a
special gift, a helper.

I wonder who it will be?





Kōrero/Story

Read “A Wind in the Door” (p258-260, Book of Belonging or see attached resources)

Ask:

What might it have felt like for the disciples, when the Holy Spirit went inside them?

How did Pentecost change things for Jesus’ disciples? How might life have been different afterwards?

Say:

There were lots of people with very different languages and backgrounds now living and working together as God’s family to love people.

How might it that have been tricky?

How might that have been awesome?



Karakia/Prayer

Jesus, thank you for sending a helper.
Wairua Tapu thank you that you are
always with us, in our hearts.
Thank you for helping us to love.
Thank you for God’s family.
Amen.

Extra for Experts: Leave two kete in the centre of your prayer circle. One with rocks, paper, pens.

Invite tamariki to say, write or draw a person in God’s family they are grateful for or need help loving, and place a rock in a basket as they do so.



Tākaro/Play

Streamer tag

Tie crepe streamers to children’s wrists. Tamariki to play tag, but when the tagger catches you, link arms with the tagger to become a chain.

At the end say: The Holy Spirit joins us together as God’s family, just like the chain of us with our wind blown streamers.



Hanga/Create

Tamariki will explore the truth that the Holy Spirit is at work weaving us all together as God’s big beautifully diverse whānau.

Use plastic trellis netting (ask your church gardening expert!) and ribbons or fabric strips (op shop cast offs are great!) of varying colours. Make it big enough, that many tamariki can be contributing at the same time.

As the tamariki weave, explore the idea that individually beautiful or interesting things can become stronger or more stunning when joined together. Talk about we make room for each other while we weave.

Find a suitable spot where the weaving can be added to over the month.

Tell the rest of your parish about it and leave materials in a kete next to it, so that it can be contributed to by everyone. See resources for a poster to sit alongside the installation.

Week 2 May 31st



Whakaaro/ Reflection

This week tamariki will learn about how God is three persons, God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. One way to describe God is as a whānau.

To dive deeper into the theology of the trinity this see [this bible project video](#) but bear in mind, the simple truth we want tamariki to go home with today is that **one** way of understanding God better is to learn about how God has three persons and how these three work **together** in love, like a family.

“The universe is held together by an eternal community of love” – Tim Mackie, Bible Project.

Trinity Sunday God IS a family

Bible Reading : Genesis 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Note: The story for today's lesson, is not a lectionary reading, but is the easiest story to start a conversation with tamariki about the Trinity, sorry to the hardcore Anglicans among you!

Reflect on these three images of the Trinity.

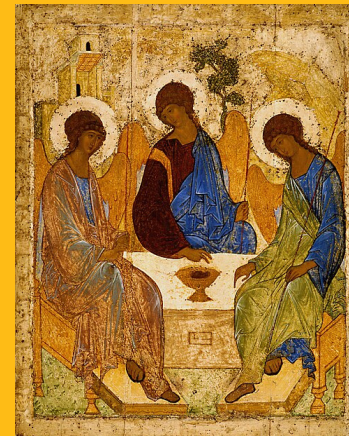
What stands out to you?

What challenges you?

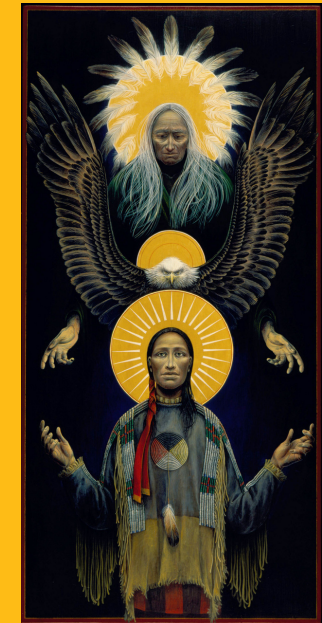
What might you say to God about these things?



Trinity - Paul Rivas



Trinity - Andrei Rublev



Lakota Trinity -
Father John Giuliani



Kupu Hou/ New Words

Te Tokotoru Tapu

The Holy Three or Trinity

Io Matua Kore

Io, the uncaused parent (one translation)

Instead of God the Father.

Matua means father, but can also mean parent.

Ihu Karaiti

Jesus Christ

TOKOTORU TAPU



Whānau Whānui/ Intergenerational

Family Sharing

Have a family come up to pray for your world/community/church.

If you can find a whānau that has three or more generations in your congregation even better!

Mix groups intergenerationally in the service to share:

- 1) Their favourite joke from when they were a kid
- 2) Talk about how their families celebrated, what traditions or routines that had for celebrations.

Note: Family can be a tricky topic for some, so make sure you set the sharing time ture (rules) as people share IF they want to, no pressure to do so.



Matau/ Hook

Family.....

Bring a photo, game, snack or tradition from your own family to share with the tamariki, or (extra for experts) invite an older person from your congregation to do so.

The aim here is to start tamariki thinking about different kinds of families, what makes families the same or different.

Ask

What is your favourite thing that you and your whānau do together?

Last week we learn about how at Pentecost, God's Spirit came to live inside God's people, and they became a big family, of different countries and languages, but all united by Wairua Tapu to love each other and the world.

Today we are going to learn about another family. There are three people in this family.
I wonder who they will be?



Kōrero/Story

Read “Beloved, Belonging and Delightful” (p174-176, Book of Belonging or see attached resources)

Ask:

Who’s voice was that?

Where can you see God in this story?

How can God be in those three different places at the same time?

Say

One way for our human brains to understand our amazing, incredible out of this world God is to think of God as three persons, Jesus, Wairua Tapu and God the Father. Together they have been like a family of love, forever and ever and ever. They show us how to be family and love each other too!

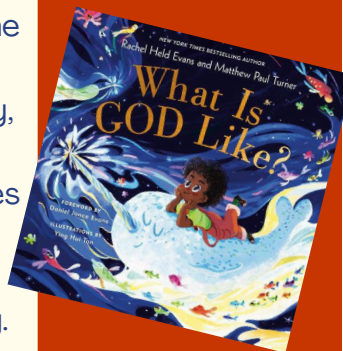
I wonder what fun the Holy Spirit, God the Father and Jesus have together?



Karakia/Prayer

God thanks that you are love, you show us how to love and you are a loving family that we can be part of.
Help us to know your love more today.
Amine.

Extra for Experts: The book, “What is God Like?” is a kid friendly, beautiful way to explore the attributes of God, including beautiful images of God as a community.



Tākaro/Play

Trinity Tag

Inside a hula hoop, three tamariki move together to tag other children who are moving like an animal of their choice.
When tagged, they change animal.
See how many children the trinity can tag in 5 minute and then swap out the trinity trio for others.



Hanga/Create

You will need:

A large chunk of ice (think ice cream container)
Watercolours
Hot water
A large tub or tray
A large piece of paper.

Put ice on tray.

Ask what it is (try and get to frozen water as an answer)

Pour hot water on top.

Ask what is in the air (steam also a form of water.)

Ask what’s pooling around the ice (water)

Say: Even although God is a family of Wairua Tapu, Jesus and God the Father, all three are still God.
Much like water can be ice, steam or liquid water.

Tamariki to “paint” the ice with raw watercolour, and use the coloured liquid to paint a collaborative painting on a large piece of paper.

Say: We’re going to use these colours to paint what we think God might be like.

What do you think God is like?

Week 3 June 7th



Whakaaro/ Reflection

Te Pouhere Sunday is the day where Anglicans across Aotearoa and Polynesia celebrates it's Constitution / Te Pouhere. We have three beautiful cultural strands or ways of doing things; Maori, Pakeha and Pasifika. This relationship came into place in 1992.

The word Te Pouhere in te reo, also means a hitching post for a waka. There is one post (Christ) with three waka tied up to it.

For the tamariki today, we will be exploring the strength that comes from being one whānau, bringing all our differences with us.

Check out [this video](#) with Anglican Leaders talking about what Te Pouhere is, the three tikanga model of our Anglican Church.

Te Pouhere Sunday Together and Different

Bible Reading : John 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.



Whakaaro/ Reflection continued.....

Tamariki will be exploring how God has made us to love others today, but gifted us with different ways of doing that.

Read “Dream Big for Kids” for yourself and answer it’s questions.

What ways has God given you to love others?

Where do you feel most alive when you are doing those things?

What dreams did you have as a child, that God might want to bring to the surface in this season of life?



Kupu Hou/ New Words

“Kia aroha koutou
tetahi ki tetahi”

“Love one another”



Whānau Whānui/ Intergenerational

Bingo

Make a bingo card for your church with items like “loves crafting”, “can speak another language”, “owns a cat” on it.

Have people circulate (if physically able) and write people’s names on the bingo card, spending a few minutes connecting and finding out a little about each other.

Prizes for filling in your card in under X minutes!

Today’s story talks about 6 ways God gifts people to love the world: Community Builders, Inspirers: (Teachers/Coaches), Encouragers, Helpers/Carers, Justice Fighters and Planet Carers.

At the entrance to church, invite people to choose a coloured lolly or pompom that represent their “gift” they bring, and have people group themselves during the service according to their choice. Note the spread of “gifts/dreams” you have!



Matau/ Hook Takaro/Play

Fruit Salad

Tamariki sit in a circle, allocate 5 different fruit names between them, one fruit per child.

One child goes to the middle of the circle and calls out a fruit.

Everyone with that fruit must quickly stand up and swap seats while the middle person tries to take a spot (take one chair out!)

If “FRUIT SALAD!” is called, everyone swaps seats! The player left without a seat becomes the new caller.

Say:

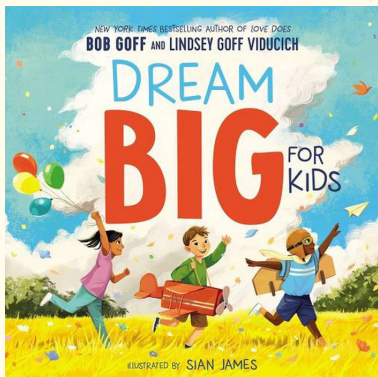
Just like different fruits belong together in one fruit salad, God made us all different but part of one big family. Today we are going to learn about one special way God has made us different.

Note: Takaro and Matau are together this week as the story is long and you want to get the wiggles out before the story starts.





Kōrero/Story



Today's lesson requires the book above.
[Here's a youtube video](#) of the book if you are desperate.

IT'S NOT A SHORT BOOK

So make sure you pause at the end of pages for discussion and movement. The book talks about God creating us to love, and how we are each uniquely gifted to do so.

It groups these "dreams" or "gifts" into 6 different types. After each page describing the gifts, have tamariki stand up and wiggle around if it sounds like them.

Extra for Experts: Have the tamariki stand if it sounds like them and act out loving others in this way.



Karakia/Prayer

Holy Spirit thanks that even although we are all different, you're with us and in us, helping us to love each other and be a whānau. Help us to dream big, of the ways that we can use the gifts you've given us to show your love in this world. Amine.

Extra for Experts

Invite tamariki to pray for each other.

They can:

Ask what the other person liked doing from the story.

Say thanks to God for the other person and the dreams God has given that person.



Hanga/Create

Love One Another Puzzle

Print the [John 15:12 puzzle poster](#) (see resources) out and cut into pieces.

Hide the pieces around the room. Have tamariki, find them, colour them in and join them together by gluing them onto a card.

Finish by reading the bible verse together.

Extra for experts: Make some mahi ringa (actions) to go with the verse.