

Growth Groups Lesson
May 14 & 15
Trinity

Big Idea: God exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who share the same divine nature, are coeternal, and are distinct from one another in person. Within the Trinity there is equality, but also roles of authority.

Spend some time praying with your group and ask for help in seeing and applying His Word. Review and reflect on the prayer requests given the previous week. Give the Lord praise for the answers to your group's prayers.

The Trinity is a fundamental aspect of who God is, but for humans with a limited capacity it is very difficult to fully comprehend. The Bible clearly reveals both the oneness as well as the three persons to us in both the Old and New Testaments. The three persons of the Trinity are in the most intimate love relationship with one another from eternity past, where the Holy Spirit carries the love of the Father to the Son and vice versa.

Read Genesis 1:1-2, Isaiah 48:16-17, John 1:1-3, Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19, Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Peter 1:1-2, 1 Tim. 2:5

1. What do you notice about the Trinity in these verses?
2. What characterizes the relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **John 17:20-26**
3. What is your reaction to being invited into this Triune relationship?
4. How does that change how you will live your life this week?

Read John 16

The night before Jesus was arrested, He had a long discussion with His disciples (the Upper Room Discourse). He explains to them the details of His coming death, how the Father has given Him this mission, and how the Holy Spirit will soon come to be with them and remind them of all the things Jesus has taught them.

5. What are the different roles that each member of the Trinity has in these verses?
6. Do these differences in roles and authority make the members of the Trinity unequal?
7. What does Jesus ask the Father to do in 17:1, and why does He ask it?
8. What character qualities do you see in the Trinity according to these passages? **Also read Galatians 5:22-23, Psalm 26:3, Isaiah 6:3**

In John 16, Jesus discusses how we relate to the Father because of Him. In verse 23, Jesus explains that the disciples will no longer ask Jesus for anything, but will rather ask the Father in Jesus' name.

9. What does this say about the disciples' relationship with the Father? Who is that relationship dependent on?
10. What does this say about your relationship with the Father?
11. What may we ask the Father for in Jesus' name? **Verse 23b**

12. What is the result of asking and receiving from the Father? **Verse 24b**

Read John 5:16-30

Jesus gives a detailed explanation of His relationship with the Father, as well as the authority given Him by the Father.

13. What ways has the Father given authority to the Son in these verses?
 - a. How do these authorities coincide with Jesus' work with the Father?
14. Why can't the Son do anything by Himself, but only does what He sees the Father doing?
 - a. If you were to model your life after this principle, what would your life look like?
 - b. How could you do that in your life this week?

15. As you go through your day, how do you rely on each person of the Trinity in your life?
 - a. The Father?
 - b. The Son?
 - c. The Holy Spirit?

End the evening praying. Praise God, ask for clarity and understanding, and ask for help as you seek to follow Him.