



THE BIG QUESTIONS

FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Series Summary: Over the next few weeks of life group, we will be asking some tough questions. Whether you are new to believing in God or have grown up in church, these questions will help you solidify what you actually believe about God, the Bible, sin, salvation, church, and end times. We pray that these conversations not only influence and deepen your faith but help you to communicate your faith to your friends and family as well. Do not hesitate to ask hard questions if you don't understand something. Life groups are a place where those questions should be heard and talked about.

Who is God?

There are two primary ways we learn about God. The first is through His special revelation. This would include Jesus showing up on earth, other physical appearances of God, dreams, visions, and the Bible. Basically, it is any time God supernaturally reveals something to humanity. The second is through general revelation. General revelation are truths that can be revealed about God through nature. **Psalm 19:1-4** talks about how the heavens declare the glory of God. **Romans 1:20** tells us that humans are without excuse for knowing God because He has revealed Himself through what has been made.

- What are some things we can learn about God through His special revelation?
- What are some things we can learn about God through His general revelation?

Christians have used the term "Trinity" to describe who God is. This does not mean we believe in three gods. The Bible clearly tells us in Deuteronomy 6:4 that God is One. However, the Bible also describes God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of these are three equal persons. They have distinct centers of consciousness and all have intelligence, will, and emotions. All three persons of the Trinity have existed forever, and all are equal in nature, but they have distinct roles. In simple terms, the Father's role is to create a plan, Jesus implements the plan, and the Holy Spirit continues it on.

- Read Genesis 1:26. Notice the word 'us.' God refers to Himself plurally.
- Read Matthew 1:18. A clear distinction is seen between Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Read John 14:16-21. All three references to the Trinity are seen in these verses.

Check out this Bible Project Video for further clarification on the Trinity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAvYmE2YYIU>

Discussion

- What are the roles of the Father? Son? Holy Spirit?
- How are we to interact with each person of the Trinity?
- What does it mean that all three persons of the trinity are equal in nature?
- Why is it necessary to believe that God has eternally existed?
- We are made in God's image and if God is a trinity, what does that mean for us?
 - God is in community within Himself, so we are designed for community.