

JESUS

LIONMAN *of* JUDAH

May 11, 2014 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 15: JESUS' BAPTISM

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

1. To **CONFIRM/ENDORSE** John's ministry.
2. To show how God would fulfill his **PROMISE** to save his people.
3. To **INAUGURATE** his ministry.
4. To **IDENTIFY** with sinners.

THE TRINITY AT JESUS' BAPTISM

A Definition

TRINITY: The doctrine that God eternally exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and each person is fully God, and there is one God.

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

– Article 1, EPCA Statement of Faith

Three basic tenants of the Trinity:

- 1) God is three persons. (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit)
- 2) Each person is fully God.
- 3) There is one God.

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer.

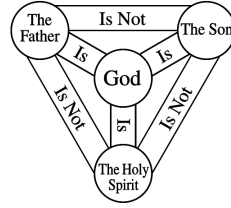
Use this as a guide, you don't have to answer every question in your group.

1. **Read 2 Chronicles 15:3, Jeremiah 10:10, John 17:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:9.** What do these verses reveal about the nature of God?
2. There are many scriptures that declare that the Father (**John 6:27, 1 Peter 1:3**), the Son (**Romans 9:5, Galatians 4:4**) and the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:3-4, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18**) are God. How is this reconciled with the statements of one God through scriptures like **Genesis 1:26, 3:22, Isaiah 6:8**?
3. How would you explain the Trinity to someone?
4. There are many common illustrations people use to describe the Trinity (you may have just heard some in your 1:10 Group!). Take some time to discuss where each of those descriptions break down. *For example, one common illustration is to say the Trinity is like an egg. 1 Egg, with three parts... the shell, the yoke, and the white. It's a helpful analogy, but in the Trinity each person (while distinct) is fully God and of the exact same nature as the other persons. However while the shell, yoke, and white of an egg are distinct parts, they are not of the exact same nature as the other parts.*
5. Why is it important to understand the nature of God as he has revealed Himself?
6. Our Statement of Faith describes God as "a loving unity of three equally divine persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit", i.e. Trinity. **Read John 4:8.** How is the Trinity reflected in the statement, "God is love"?
7. How does our desire for community and relationship reflect the image of God within us?
8. **Read Genesis 1:26-27.** What does the doctrine of the Trinity teach us about how we image God?
9. What aspects of the Trinity (community, relationship, submission...etc) are missing from your life?
10. Do you think that the trinitarian nature of God is more fully reflected in a church in which all the members have the same racial background, or one in which the members come from many different races (see **Eph. 3:1-10**)?
11. How do you relate to God the Father? The Son? The Spirit?

Some questions taken from Wayne Grudem's "Systematic Theology" (pg. 258) and Mars Hill Church Community Group Study Questions: http://marshill.com/files/2008/03/30/20080330_trinity-god-is_document_9214.pdf

6:7 family questions

Parents. Ever try explaining the Trinity to your kids? It's easy to focus on the "how" questions, but we really don't have answers to those. We can, however, explain the "what" of the Trinity. This illustration may help you do that.



Take turns stating the individual relationship between each circle (i.e. "The Father is God", "The Son is not the Holy Spirit", etc.).

Read the following example of how the work of God can be accomplished by all three members of the Trinity. Look up and discuss God's role in each passage.

"The Father is the One who planned our salvation and chose to send his Son into the world to save us from our sin (**John 3:16–17**). But the Son is the One who came to become a man and to live a perfect life and then die on the cross (**Philippians 2:5–8**). The Holy Spirit worked to help Jesus during his life (**Luke 4:14–21**) and works in our lives so that we are able to put our faith in Christ and be saved (**John 3:4–8**). So the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each play different roles, and together they accomplish the one work of salvation that the one God brings to us."

(From *Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God*, by Bruce Ware)

These simple questions are designed to help you live out the command in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach our kids and make God's Word a natural topic of conversation in our homes. Use them at the dinner table, in the car, or whenever you find your family together with a few moments to spare.

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF MAY 11, 2014

During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.

Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.

NOTE: *Due to the sensitive nature of some items on the Prayer Guide, we do not publish it online. Email the church office to sign up for the email prayer list: office@wawaseebible.com*