

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Delighting in the Trinity

Week 1: God the Father

GOALS

- To spend some time discussing and thinking more about how God reveals himself to us as Father
- To consider and internalize the rich blessing that God, 3-in-1, is

TIPS

- Watch your time and leave out questions if needed
- Make sure there is enough time at the end to pray together as a group

HEADLINES

Delighting in the Trinity Series:

Until we know and enjoy God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are in a music-less universe of deep darkness. The Trinity, though a dizzying truth, is not only the principle article of the Christian faith, it is the most beautiful truth of all. It colours not only how we see and experience God, but everything else - pervading it all with meaning and music. (Michael Reeves)

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for bringing us together again. Help us to open our hearts and minds to you and your truth. Reveal yourself to us this evening so we can better understand and love you. Help us to bond in community as we journey this together. Amen.

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out for you in Sunday's message? Any points that seemed new or you hadn't thought of before?
2. What descriptions come to mind when you get asked what is God like or when you think about God?

A.W. Tozer says that "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God."

Someone read the following scripture: John 4:21-24

3. What does this scripture suggest about how Jesus describes God?

Michael Reeves, who wrote the book *Delighting in the Trinity* (The Good God if you're on kindle) wrote this about God the Father: "A father is a person who gives life, who begets children. Now that insight is like a stick of dynamite in all our thoughts about God. For if, before all things, God was eternally a Father, then this God is an inherently outgoing, life-giving God. He did not give life for the first time when he decided to create; from eternity he has been life-giving. This gets unpacked for us in 1 John 4: 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'"

4. Why do you think it's hard for people to think of God as primarily a Father? What about for you personally? (Life Group leader, this is a good opportunity to be vulnerable and lead this moment vulnerably)
5. How do you think our understanding of God would change if we saw God as a perfect Father, full of love and goodwill towards us?
6. How would that shape the way we engage with him every day?

1 John 3:1 says "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" Let's spend some time praying to our Father for a fresh revelation of how he reveals himself to us as Father and that we would see him more clearly.

PRAY

Spend some time praying about what came up in questions 4 and 5. Pray into specifics if people shared vulnerably about their struggle to see God as Father.

To end prayer: Father God, we know with our minds that you are perfect and you are love, but sometimes it's harder to know with our hearts. Father God, please make yourself known to us as we seek you this week. Help us to open our hearts to you and your love. Amen.