



GROWTH GROUP

Trinity Sunday

Week of 6/14/2020

The doctrine of the Trinity is foundational to the Christian faith. God is a profound and wonderful mystery as three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one, constant, unchanging God. All of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are active at the beginning of the Bible and in rescuing us so we can live in his presence forever.

Getting Started

Would you rather go to the zoo or Sea World? Hiking or swimming? Visit Italy or Canada? Just a little something to consider the wonders of creation and some of the things we enjoy most.

Into the Word

Read **Genesis 1:1-2:3**. What things do you want to highlight or talk more about after reading the introduction to God’s Word in the Bible?

There’s so much in this account; there won’t be time to cover all of it in one study. However, if

FORMING	Day 1: Heavens & earth; light	Day 2: Sky separated from water	Day 3: Dry land and vegetation
	FILLING	Day 4: Sun, moon, stars	Day 5: Fish and birds
			Day 6: Land animals & people

there are things that strike you, feel free to explore that more before diving into the questions.

Notice the order of forming, then filling as God created everything during these six days.

The Trinity is a God of order. He first prepared the universe and earth with forming, then he filled it with life once things were set to sustain life.

Identify places where you see evidence of each person of the Trinity active in creation.

God created the heavens and the earth. Often, in the Bible, God refers to God the Father. (Notice, for example, how this is done in the next reading from 2 Corinthians.) Genesis chapter one tells us how the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) was hovering over the waters. This is subtle; the teaching of the Trinity is fleshed out more as you continue reading the Bible. Jesus is there at creation, too. Nine times in this section (and one more later in chapter two) we read, “God said.” It’s emphasizing the communication of God. John chapter one tells us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” It goes on to tell us that Jesus is the Word through whom all things were made. All three persons of the Trinity were there and active in creation. Before making human beings, God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.” The one God is speaking to himself in the plural, because there is a plurality to the singularity of God—unity in his diversity. He is an amazing God who then brings unity in the diversity of his creation.

As you look at how the Trinity made the first people, what details highlight the uniqueness of human beings as the crown of God's creation?

There was a progression to the process of creation over those six days. It was all building to the final, climactic part. The last and most special part of creation was man and woman. This is why we often say that people are the crown of God's creation. God made man and woman in his image and likeness. Unlike all other creatures on earth, God made people to reflect him and be his representatives on earth. We have special ingenuity, creativity, and capabilities as those made in God's image. Most of all, the first humans were perfect like God and lived in righteousness because they were made in his image. And finally, God gave men and women the authority to rule over creation. This is a unique charge and privilege for humans to manage and rule the earth responsibly and with wisdom.

Read **2 Corinthians 13:11,14**. The Trinity made us and continues to bless us. How does his blessing give us more of who he is?

There is perfect unity in the Trinity. He wills that we enjoy unity among one another—that we also encourage and build one another up. There is perfect love and peace within the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit interact with and love one another. God gives us that love and peace that we may also enjoy who he is. We get God's grace, love, and fellowship. When God blesses us, he gives us more of who he is!

Apply

How could you use the creation account to explain why you believe every person is valuable and worthy of dignity and respect?

You could use this account to show how special humans are to God and how much dignity he gives us. God made one man and one woman in the beginning, and every person since then has descended from those two. That means we're all part of the human race—none more or less important than the other. Of course, going beyond this account, we know that all people are valuable because the holy, precious blood of God was shed for every person of the world.

God's perfect creation was quickly ruined by sin. What aspects of the new heavens and new earth (creation restored) encourage you when dealing with the effects of our fallen world?

Answers will vary. No more death, sickness, sorrow, or pain. Living with God. Perfect fellowship, unity, and love among people from every nation, tribe, and language. Being brought into the love that Trinity has known since before creation. Others?

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week.

Encourage and pray for one another in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Pray

Prayer suggestions: For healing, justice, and peace in our nation; for creation and for heaven.