

The Trinity

Making God Known



Study One

Read John 14:1-27.

With which command does John 14:1-27 begin and end? How do the truths in between these bookends lead us towards that?

Do you think the God of the Old Testament and Jesus are the same? What do verses 1, 7 and 11 say about this?

Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

How do the Father and the Son relate in these verses?

What does it *mean* that Jesus is the Son of God?

Read the following excerpt from the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

How did the early Church go about explaining the difference between God the Father and God the Son while still maintaining that both the Father and Son are equal?

Read John 5:17-18.

Why do you think the Jews read into Jesus' words like they did?

If Jesus was equal with the Father, then why did he submit to him?

Are there ways we can follow this example of submission that aren't oppressive?

What does eternal life with God look like, in John 14:2-4? How do we receive this life (verse 6)?

How much comfort does eternal life with God bring to you?



Knowing God Through the Son

Hebrews 1:1-3 Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

John 5:17-18 But Jesus responded to them, "My Father is still working, and I am working also." This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill Him: Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.



Study Two

Have you ever struggled with the concept of God as Father?

How does James 1:17 fit with your view of Fatherhood?

Read Matthew 7:9-11.

How does the goodness of human fathers relate to the goodness of our Heavenly Father?

How should these verses speak into our prayers?

Read Luke 10:22.

Who knows the Father? How can we know the Father?

Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

What are a few of the good gifts our Father gives us in Christ?

From 1 Corinthians 4:7, what does it look like to live with a Father who gives every good and perfect gift?

Read Romans 8:28-32 and pray together.





Knowing God as Father

James 1:17 Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.

Matthew 7:9-11 “What man among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Luke 10:22 “All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him.”

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you didn’t receive? If, in fact, you did receive it, why do you boast as if you hadn’t received it?

Study Three

Getting Started

What have always been your biggest questions, issues, or struggles when trying to understand who the Holy Spirit is? (Don't feel the need to resolve everything now!)

What's in a Name?

The first thing that is important to grasp when it comes to understanding the Spirit is that he is connected to the other persons of the Godhead in a very direct way. This shows up in the way his name is spoken, particularly in the New Testament.

There are three ways this tends to play out in Scripture. Have a few people read out the following verses and take note how the Spirit is being referred:

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:11
- b. Acts 16:6-7
- c. 1 Corinthians 3:16
- d. Mat 10:19-20
- e. Romans 8:9
- f. Galatians 4:6
- g. Acts 16:7

What stands out to you from these Scripture readings? How does this influence the way you think about the Holy Spirit?

Read John 16:13-15.

When it comes to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, what relationship does he have with the Father and Son?



Knowing God by the Spirit

The Spirit and Knowing God

What do you think is needed to know someone; to truly know them? What needs to happen?

Read the following verses:

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:10-13
- b. Galatians 4:6
- c. Romans 8:15

From these verses, what role does the Spirit play in our ability to know God?

Bringing it all Together

From these verses, we can see that our ability to know God, and be known by him, is brought about by the Spirit. The Spirit bridges the communication gulf between us and God and brings us into each other's presence.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of revelation who reveals God to us by taking what the Father has given to the Son and giving it to us. You are passive, and the Spirit gives you this knowledge – this relationship with God the Father – to you as a gift.

Read Galatians 5:13-26.

Given this passage, and in light of this study, what do you think it means to 'walk by the Spirit' (v.16)?

In your experience, what tends to inhibit you from walking by the Spirit?

Spend some time praying about this and anything else that has come up as a result of this study.

