

## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDES

# Doctrine

Foundations of Faith in the God of the Bible



### WEEK ONE: Who is God? Doctrine of the Trinity

- READ: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Timothy 4:16

As you reflect on these verses discuss why Doctrine (what the scriptures reveal about the nature and character of God) is so important.

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- Reflect on the following statement and discuss whether you agree. Why or why not?

*“Doctrine is so important because WHAT you believe to be true about God (THEOLOGY), informs and effects WHO you are in the light of your beliefs about God (BIOGRAPHY), which in turn effects HOW you live (DOXOLOGY) in the light of your beliefs about God.”*

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## **THE TRINITY**

### **DEFINITION OF THE TRINITY**

*“God eternally exists as three DISTINCT persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each are FULLY and EQUALLY God. Each exists in eternal relationship with each other. And there is one God.” (Driscoll & Grudem)*

#### **• THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD**

Both the OLD and the NEW Testaments make it very clear that there is one and only one true God.

DISCUSSION: Read the verses below and then discuss *“If asked, How would you distinguish God from the countless false gods promoted in our world?”*

**1 Kings 8:20:** *“That all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other”*

**Isaiah 45: 5-6:** *“I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, <sup>6</sup> so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.”*

**Isaiah 45:21:** *“Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me.”*

**Isaiah 44:6-8:** *““This is what the LORD says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. <sup>7</sup> Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come. <sup>8</sup> Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”*

**1 Timothy 2:5** *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus”*

**Romans 3:30** *“since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.”*

**1 Corinthians 8:4-6:** *“So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”*

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• **THERE IS ONE GOD. THE FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT ARE EQUALLY DECLARED THROUGH OUT SCRIPTURE TO BE GOD**

Read the following verses about the divinity of the three persons of the trinity. Discuss any verses that stand out to you and why.

When you have read the verses, read Wayne Grudem's 3 point summary of the Doctrine of the Trinity. Discuss: "Why is a right understanding of the Trinity essential to our faith?"

**A) THE FATHER IS GOD**

**John 6:27:** "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

**John 17:3** praying to God the Father Jesus prayed: " ... And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ who you have sent."

**1 Corinthians 8:6** "yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live ..."

**2 Corinthians 1:3** "praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort"

**Ephesians 1:3** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ"

**1 Peter 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

**B) THE SON IS GOD**

**John 1:1-4:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

**John 1:14** "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth".

**John 8:58** "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

**John 10:30-38** I and the Father are one."<sup>31</sup> Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup> but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"<sup>33</sup> "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"' ? <sup>35</sup> If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— <sup>36</sup> what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? <sup>37</sup> Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. <sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.

**Romans 9:5** *"Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!"*

**Philippians 2:10-11** *"that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

**1 John 5:20** *"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life"*

**Revelation 19:16** *"On his robe and on his thigh he has written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords"*

### **C) THE SPIRIT IS GOD**

**Genesis 1:1-2** *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18** *"Now the LORD IS THE SPIRIT, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, WHICH COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO IS THE SPIRIT."*

**Acts 5:3-4** *"Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the **HOLY SPIRIT** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup> Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to **GOD.**"*

### **THE TRINITY SUCCINCTLY STATED** (Wayne Grudem: Systematic Theology)

- 1)** God is Three Persons
- 2)** Each Person is FULLY God
- 3)** There is ONE God.

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## CREDITS

### **Bibliography**

Mark Driscoll & Gerry Breshears: *“DOCTRINE: What Christians Should Believe”*

J.I Packer: *“CONCISE THEOLOGY: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs”*

Wayne Grudem: *“SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine”*

Millard J Erickson: *“Introducing Christian Doctrine”*

Note: Discussion questions in this study have been adapted from ‘DOCTRINE: What Christians Should Believe’