Discussion Guide 2, Week 1: What Is the Meaning and Understanding of the Trinity?

Discussion Overview: For the next four weeks we will talk about the Triune God of the Bible, who exists as one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We will discuss how each is fully God while having distinct roles and functions. We will also explore how the power and presence God are revealed through the Holy Spirit.

This week, we will discuss the Trinity: one God who exists eternally as three distinct, co-equal persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

1. In **Deuteronomy 4:35, 39**, we read: It was shown to you so you might know that the Lord is God. There is no other except Him…So know this day, take it to your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on the earth below. There is no other. And **Isaiah 43:10** tells us: The Lord says, "You are my witnesses. You are the servant I chose. I chose you so you would know and believe me. I chose you so you would understand that I am the true God. There was no God before me, and there will be no God after me."

Question: According to these verses, what do we learn about God?
Answer: There is only one true God, and He has chosen us to know and believe in Him.

2. In **Isaiah 45:21b**, we read: There is no other God except me. There is no other righteous God and Savior besides me. And in **Malachi 2:10**, we are reminded: Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God?

Question: How do these verses describe God?
Answer: He is the only righteous God and Savior, and He is our Father and Creator.

3. In **Genesis 1:26a**, we learn: Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us."

Question: What clues are given in Genesis 1:26 that God is more complex than a single person?
Answer: God refers to Himself using the words "we" and "us." Christians have historically seen the language of Genesis 1, especially "us" and "our," as consistent with the fuller biblical revelation of the Trinity.

4. In **2 Corinthians 13:14**, we read: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Question: Who are the three distinct persons identified in this verse?
Answer: The Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

Section 2: Let's Talk About It- This section is for you to discuss takeaways from this week's lesson.

- Why is it important to understand that Christians worship one God rather than three gods?
- Why can the Trinity be difficult for us to fully understand?
- What does Genesis 1 teach us about God's existence before human beings were created?
- What does it mean to you that the God who created everything also wants us to know Him?

Closing Prayer (before closing today's meeting, please ask everyone to bow their heads and then read this prayer aloud):

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for revealing Yourself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Thank you for protecting and providing for us, and helping us to know you through your Holy Word. Give us the courage and faith to follow you today and always.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Discussion Guide 2, Week 2: God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Recap: Last week, we learned that the Trinity is one eternal God who exists as three co-equal persons. This week, we will discuss how each works in distinct ways: the Father as Creator and Sustainer, the Son as Savior and Mediator, and the Holy Spirit as the living presence of God with and within His people.

1. In **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus says: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Question: In whose name did Jesus tell His followers to baptize people and why is this important?
Answer: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which confirms the three persons of the Trinity.

2.In **1 Timothy 2:5**, we read about Jesus' as the mediator: There is one God. There is also one man who can open the way between God and all people. That man is Christ Jesus. And **Romans 8:34** tells us: Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven.

Question: How do these verses describe Jesus as our Savior and Mediator?
Answer: He has saved us from eternal separation from God through His death and resurrection, and now He sits next to God and pleads to Him on our behalf.

3.In **John 14:6**, Jesus says: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." He's not only God's Son, but He's also our Savior and Mediator. A mediator brings two separated parties together.

Question: How is Jesus "the way, the truth, and the life" and why should this matter to us?
Answer: Jesus is the only way back to God, He is the source of all truth and life, and by knowing and putting our faith in Him, we can be reconnected to God.

4. In **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, God promises: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you...I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Note: The Holy Spirit is the living presence of God who dwells within believers. The Hebrew phrase Ruach Elohim means "Spirit of God." Ruach can mean spirit, breath, or wind, while Elohim means God.

Question: Who is the Spirit and what is His purpose?
Answer: The Holy Spirit is the living presence of God, dwelling in those who believe in Jesus and helping believers to trust in and follow God's will and purpose.

Section 2: Let's Talk About It- This section is for you to discuss takeaways from this week's lesson.

- Why do you think God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- How does understanding God as our Creator and Sustainer change the way we see our lives?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the only way to the Father?
- How does knowing that God's Spirit lives within believers affect the way we live?

Challenge: Spend time this week in prayer, thanking God for being the source of truth and life, and for giving you a new heart and the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you.

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Discussion Guide 2, Week 3: The Living Presence of God Within Us

Recap: Last week, we learned that God's power is revealed through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This week, we will talk about how the living presence of God gives us the power and endurance to trust in and follow God's will and purposes.

1. In **John 14:16-17**, Jesus tells His followers: "I will ask the Father...He will send another Helper to be with you...He is God's Spirit and he shows you what is true...you know him because he stays with you. And he will be in you."

Question: What does Jesus say the Father will send to His followers?
Answer: God the Father will send the Holy Spirit to live in them as a Helper and truth revealer.

2. In **Romans 5:5**, we read: "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." And **Romans 8:26** reads: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us..."

Question: What does the Holy Spirit do when we are weak and do not know what to pray?
Answer: The Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us.

3. In **Acts 1:8** we are told: But the Holy Spirit will come to you, and he will give you power. The Holy Spirit will make your spirit strong. Then you will tell other people everywhere in the world about me. You will do that in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and in places far away.'

Question: When the Holy Spirit comes to a believer, what happens and what is expected?
Answer: The Holy Spirit gives us power and makes our spirit strong, so that we can tell others about Jesus.

4. In **Romans 5:3-5** we learn: We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Question: What helps us develop endurance and why does this matter?
Answer: When we go through problems and trials, we develop endurance and it produces character and confident hope in knowing that we are saved and protected by Jesus.

Section 2: Let's Talk About It- This section is for you to discuss takeaways from this week's lesson.

- How does it change your understanding of God to know that His Spirit can live within you?
- How can the Holy Spirit help us when we are struggling, doubting, and not sure how to pray?
- What new information have you learned about the Trinity and how would you help someone to understand God as the Trinity?

5.Spend the remainder of today's meeting preparing for next week- A student to share a TESTIMONY about how God has revealed His character and nature AND the gospel invitation).

Reminder: Remember to invite friends to next week's INSPIRE Week meeting.

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Discussion Guide 2, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Read the following to your group:

Welcome to our Faith & Purpose Club! We are so glad you are here [Introduce your leadership team].

We meet each week to talk about God, explore the Bible, and discuss real-life topics that matter. Although we are a student-led Christian group, everyone is welcome. This is a safe, supportive place to build friendships, learn about faith, and feel connected.

For the last few weeks, we have been discussing the Triune God of the Bible, who exists as one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Understanding the Trinity and how each operates is foundational to the Christian faith.

This week, we will hear faith stories and the gospel invitation. The core verse that frames today's mee4ting is in **Romans 15:13**, which reads: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

A student leader shares their faith story NOW

Prayer and invitation:
We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge that my self focus has separated me from you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer, and for showing me that Jesus is the way back to you. I want to place my trust in Him to guard and guide me. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you.

In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

If you have turned your heart and mind to Jesus today, please know that He sees and welcomes you.

Pass out Response Cards NOW (download from the yclprograms.org or YCL phone app)

Challenge: Remember to invite visitors to next week's group meeting and to tell them about your youth group/church.

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