

Delighting in the Trinity

Group Guide:
Week 1

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What's a hobby that makes you happy?
- What was a moment when you were delighted?
- Discipleship check-in.

INTRODUCTION

This week begins our series *Delighting in the Trinity*, where we will press into the beauty and the power of our three-in-one God. This week, we will be starting at the very beginning of the story. Before the beginning, in fact! We'll be asking, "What was God doing before the world was made?" And the answer is surprising. He was *delighting*.

READ & DISCUSS

READ: John 17:24

DISCUSS: "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." Before the foundation of the world, God was loving and delighting in Jesus, his Son. This is why God wants us to see Jesus' glory: he wants us to delight in Jesus because *He* delights in Jesus. Christ is the best object for our delight, because he is supremely, objectively worthy of being delighted in. Why is that? What makes Jesus worthy of delight?

REFLECT & APPLY

DISCUSS: What is it that you delight in? We have to train ourselves to delight in Jesus before everything else. Not to the exclusion of everything else! But certainly before everything else. In all of our hearts, there are things that we are tempted to value before Christ. These are what we call "idols," things that we pin our hopes and significance upon. Maybe it's freedom, or prosperity, or pleasure or safety. Take some time this week as a group to try to locate your delights, and ask yourself: am I leaning on these instead of Christ?

PRAY

As you pray this week, reflect on the beauty of the Trinity. God's nature is to love, and from before the beginning of the world He was united in His three-in-one person by that love. It's that love that we are called to have for one another. From the earliest history of the Church, delighting in the Trinity has been at the center of our spiritual life, and has been the source of our unity. Originally, "catholic" meant "unified," "all-embracing." The unity of the Trinity is a call for unity with one another, who have been called by God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. If you feel lead, close your meeting this week with a reading of the Nicene Creed, one of the oldest statements of our faith.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?