

Delighting in the Trinity

Group Guide:
Week 3

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Have you ever had to forgive someone for something?
- Who is the most loving person you know?
- Discipleship check-in (at the bottom of this guide!)

INTRODUCTION

This week we continue our series *Delighting in the Trinity*, where we are exploring the beauty and the power of our three-in-one God. As we read from John's letter to his church this week, we'll be focusing on the overflowing love of Jesus, the second person of the Trinity. Jesus, the eternally begotten son of the Father, taught us what love is when he went to the cross on our behalf. Jesus loved God and God's people more than he loved himself. Even when we did not love rightly, Jesus loved us and gave himself for us—and if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

READ & DISCUSS

READ: 1 John 4:7-20

DISCUSS: Why was Jesus sent into the world? How are our lives changed by believing in him?

REFLECT & APPLY

DISCUSS: Throughout this passage, John connects Jesus' love for us (even when we didn't deserve it) to Jesus' call to love one another in the same way. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." Are there people in your life who you have a hard time loving? Who might even not deserve it? What would it look like to wisely extend to them the same love we have received in Christ?

PRAY

Our hope this week is that meditating on the Son will move you to praise; that just as Jesus' love overflowed for us, our love for Him would overflow as well. For millennia, the response to this has been communal prayers and songs of praise. Spend some time together this week worshipping God. If you are at all musically inclined, sing songs and hymns together! But even if you aren't, the Bible is full of poems and passages reflecting on the beauty of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Read the following passage from Colossians out loud together as you close out your group, and meditate on the overflowing love of Jesus, and the call to love one another as he first loved us.

God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 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?