



SESSION 1

# THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

God is the triune Creator on mission  
to redeem the world.



# WORSHIP

## READING PLAN

Read through the following Scripture passages this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses.

### **Day 1**

Genesis 1:1-31

### **Day 2**

Exodus 33:12-34:9

### **Day 3**

Jeremiah 10:1-16

### **Day 4**

John 16:12-33

### **Day 5**

Romans 1:18-32

### **Day 6**

Hebrews 8:1-13

### **Day 7**

Revelation 4:1-11

## GOD IS THE TRIUNE CREATOR

One of the interesting aspects of studying the Trinity in Scripture is that you'll never find the word *Trinity* in Scripture—not even in the original Hebrew or Greek languages. Indeed, *Trinity* is a term that Bible scholars created in order to discuss God's existence as three distinct Persons united in a single Being.

However, that doesn't mean the concept of the Trinity is foreign or the Scriptures are outside the boundaries of biblical doctrine. In fact, the presence of the Trinity can be felt throughout the entirety of God's Word—starting with the beginning:

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

**GENESIS 1:1-3**

The very first verses of the Bible make direct references to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. But Jesus is there, too, if you know where to look. Remember what John wrote in the first verses of his Gospel:

<sup>1</sup> 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> All things were created through Him,  
and apart from Him not one thing was created  
that has been created.

**JOHN 1:1-3**

*How do these verses influence your understanding of Genesis 1:1-3?*

*Because we are created in God's image (see Gen. 1:26-27), what does the nature of the Trinity say about us?*

Perhaps the clearest representation of the Trinity occurred during Jesus' baptism at the very beginning of His public ministry:

<sup>16</sup> After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. <sup>17</sup> And there came a voice from heaven:

This is My beloved Son.  
I take delight in Him!

**MATTHEW 3:16-17**

Again, it's difficult for us to fully process what is happening in these verses. On the one hand, we can see three distinct persons acting in different ways—Jesus was baptized as a human being, the Holy Spirit descended from above in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke an audible pronouncement of His pleasure with Jesus. At the same time, we know that all three of those Persons exist as one Being. All three are God at the same time.

That's the mystery of the Trinity.

***Read the following passages of Scripture and record how they contribute to your understanding of the Trinity.***

***Matthew 28:18-20***

***John 14:23-26***

***2 Corinthians 13:11-13***



## GOD HAS A MISSION TO REDEEM THE WORLD

When we think about the doctrine of God, we are really attempting to address two major questions: What is God like? What does God do?

*How would you answer these questions right now?*

The short answer to the first question is: “the Trinity.” As we’ve seen, it’s understandably difficult for human beings to process the nature and character of God. The best way we can describe what He is like is three distinct Persons living in perfect community as a single Being. That’s the Trinity.

The short answer to the second question is: “everything.” God created everything in the universe, and He is solely responsible for sustaining everything He created. God is both the source of all things and the ultimate purpose for all things. And that’s only a part of what He does. It’s also true that, since God exists as a perfect community, another part of what He does is enjoy a relationship with Himself—and with everything He has created.

The Bible helps us understand these big-picture concepts, but that’s not its primary focus. Instead, the Scriptures are mainly focused on one specific aspect of what God does. Namely, they help us see God’s long-term mission to redeem His creation—including both the world He created and the people He loves.

As you discussed earlier in this session, God’s original creation was corrupted by human sin. In response, God initiated a long-term plan designed to re-establish a connection between Himself and humanity—a plan that culminated in Jesus Christ. John offered a helpful summary of that moment:

The Word became flesh  
and took up residence among us.  
We observed His glory,  
the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

**JOHN 1:14**

***Read the following passages of Scripture and record what they teach about God's mission to redeem the world:***

***Genesis 12:1-3***

***Leviticus 26:3-17***

***Jeremiah 31:31-34***

***Matthew 28:16-20***

***Revelation 21:1-8***

The total message of the Bible makes it clear that God has personally involved Himself in the mission to restore His creation. He's not a "divine Watchmaker" who created the universe only to remain distant from whatever happens within it. He's not an angry Creator waiting on the edge of His seat to destroy us for our disobedience.

Instead, God has lovingly and patiently worked with us and extended Himself toward us in order to redeem us and restore our relationship with Him.

***What are some ways God's mission is evident today?***