

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 5/31/26

Summary

On Trinity Sunday, Pastor Joel invited the congregation to move beyond simply learning a theological formula and instead encountering the living reality of who God is. Drawing on the Christian calendar and the Lectionary, the sermon explored the doctrine of the Trinity, not as a complicated puzzle to solve, but as a window into the very nature of God. The name of God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the nature of God, at its deepest core, is self-giving love. The three persons of the Trinity exist in an eternal relationship of loving and being loved, and everything that flows from God, including creation, redemption, and the Spirit's work in us, is an overflow of that love.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we ask that you open our hearts and minds to receive what you have for us. We do not come simply to learn about you, but to know you more deeply. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation, soften any hardness in us, and help each person in this group to encounter the love that is at the very core of who you are. May this time together draw us closer to you and to one another. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one word you would use to describe God, and where did that word come from in your life?

Key Verses

- John 4:8
- John 4:9-10
- Ephesians 3:17-19
- Genesis 1:26
- Matthew 28:19-20

Questions

1. The sermon described the Trinity not primarily as a division of divine responsibilities, but as a unity of self-giving love. How does thinking of God as a community of love change the way you relate to Him personally?
2. Pastor Joel mentioned that our Western understanding of personhood is built on individuality and boundaries, while other cultures understand personhood as rooted in community. How does the Zulu idea of Ubuntu, translated to 'I am because we are', help you think differently about your own identity as someone made in God's image?
3. If the essential nature of God is self-giving love, and we are created in God's image, what does that say about what we are designed to do and be in the world?
4. The sermon suggested that creation itself may have been inevitable because self-giving love naturally overflows and creates life. How does this idea shape the way you see your own everyday work, whether that is teaching, caregiving, managing, or something else entirely?

5. The Great Commission in Matthew 28 is described as a re-issuing of the original call for humanity to join God in loving and caring for creation. How does framing 'go and make disciples' as an invitation into the nature and heart of God change how you think about sharing your faith?
6. Pastor Joel asked a pointed question: would it make a difference in your daily life if you truly believed, in your mind and heart and bones, that God loves to love you? How would you honestly answer that question?
7. 1 John 4 says that 'whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.' What are some practical ways that loving others becomes a form of knowing and reflecting God to the world around us?
8. Trinity Sunday is described as a time to capture our imaginations, fill our hearts, and empower our lives, not just inform our minds. What is one area of your life where you feel God is calling you to move from simply knowing about His love to actually living it out?

Life Application

This week, choose one ordinary task or relationship in your daily life, whether it is your work, a conversation with a neighbor, caring for a family member, or serving someone in need. Approach that moment intentionally as an act of self-giving love, reflecting the nature of God. At the end of the week, take a few minutes to journal or reflect on how that experience changed your awareness of God's presence in the everyday.

Key Takeaways

- The doctrine of the Trinity reveals that the fundamental, essential nature of God is self-giving love. God is not primarily a hierarchy of divine responsibilities but a unity of persons eternally loving and being loved.
- The name of God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and everything that flows from God, including creation, redemption, and the Spirit's indwelling presence, is an overflow of that love.
- Creation itself may be understood as the natural result of a God whose love cannot help but overflow, giving life, meaning, purpose, and hope to all that exists.
- The Great Commission to go and make disciples is not simply a task to complete. It is an invitation to participate in the very nature and heart of God by extending self-giving love to the world.
- Trinity Sunday calls us beyond intellectual understanding into a transforming encounter with a God who loves to love us, empowering us to love others in His name.

Ending Prayer

Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for this time together and for the truth that your very nature is love. We confess that we do not always live as people who are fully convinced of how deeply and completely you love us.

Would you root us and establish us in that love, as Paul prayed, so that we might begin to grasp how wide and long and high and deep it truly is? Send us back into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities as people who carry your love with us, not because we have earned it, but because you have poured it out freely. May the overflow of your love in us bring life and hope to everyone we encounter this week. We pray this in the mighty name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.