

Introducing the Eternal God Jesus Christ

Pastors Jeff Bucknam, Dave Learned, Tommy Creutz, and Jon Bell | John 1:1-13

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

Ice Breaker

Share your favorite – or least favorite – prequel or origin story.

Understanding The Text In Context

Read Genesis 1:1-2, remembering that this passage in John describes a time even before these first words in Genesis — John 1 being a type of prequel to Genesis 1. Reflect on the beauty of God eternally existing in a Trinity, that being his primary identity, rather than that of Creator or Savior, which occurs secondarily. How does God's primary identity as Father, Son, and Spirit — a triune being — give more insight into our understanding of his character?

Read Colossians 1:15-16. Consider the fact that all things were made through Jesus Christ, as this passage states. How does this affect your outlook on him? What does it mean that Jesus was the firstborn of all creation? (For help with 'firstborn' see also Psalm 89:27, a helpful cross-reference in many Bibles. Does 'firstborn' focus on 'the-first-to-be-born' or the honor due the firstborn? For more help, see: [What Does Colossians 1:15 Mean?](#)).

Connecting To Jesus And His Gospel

Since Jesus is fully God ('the Word was God' even from the very 'beginning' [John 1:1]), how one treats Jesus is how one treats God. Yet, a less-than-God 'Jesus' is part of many religions (like Islam and Hinduism) and many people's views (like 'Jesus was just a good moral teacher'). How can the

Bible's true-view of Jesus help you clarify who Jesus is with those who have a less-than-God view of Jesus? Spend some time praying for some of them to believe in the true Jesus: 'In him was life, and the life was the light of men' (John 1:4).

Living Out The Truth

Jesus is not merely a helpful addition to our lives but is in reality *the* eternal God — creator of the universe and creator of **you and me**. How does this perspective of Jesus inform your outlook in daily life?

The light exposes what is hidden. How does John 3:19-20 help us understand why people love 'darkness'? What patterns or sins do you prefer to keep in the dark? How can knowing we are 'children of God' (John 1:12-13) help us turn from the darkness to the 'light of men' (John 1:4)?

Belief is not mere head agreement but heart allegiance. How do you hope your understanding of true belief will deepen as we study the Gospel of John together? Pray for this series, and for everyone who is leaning in this year, that our belief would grow into obedient, steadfast faith.

Parenting Moment And Family Focus

John says those who receive Jesus become children of God. What do you think it means to live like someone who belongs to God's family? If we're part of God's family, how should that shape the way we treat each other at home?

Further Study

Learn more about The Trinity!

- Read some good articles: '[Why the Doctrine of the Trinity Is Crucial for the Christian Life](#),' '[10 Things You Should Know about the Trinity](#),' and '[When Troubles Come, Meditate on the Trinity](#).'
- Read a little longer (and even deeper) article from John Piper as he learns from Jonathan Edwards and C. S. Lewis — all to know God better through His Word: '[Can We Explain the Trinity? My Favorite Image for the Greatest Mystery](#).'
- Listen to a Podcast: '[Common Misconceptions about the Trinity \(Fred Sanders\)](#)'
- Read Chapter 14: 'God in Three Person: The Trinity' in Wayne Grudem's [Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine](#).
- Read [Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith](#) by Michael Reeves.
- From Tim Challies:
 - Look at this helpful infographic from his Visual Theology about [The Trinity](#).

- [Take a quiz](#) on your understanding of the Trinity — with the answers and explanations at the end!
- And for some humor (with some good points along the way), watch '[St. Patrick's Bad Analogies](#)'

Looking ahead to next week's Sermon and Text:

- Read the three sections in the Scripture Journals for John 1:12-18: 'Are You a Child of God?' and 'What is God like?' and 'Grace Upon Grace.'