

LESSON 3

Who is God? Who am I?

GOAL/PURPOSE: To understand the Christian God as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. To see that though God is three “Persons,” God is still One. The Trinity helps us understand that God is complex (see Scriptures at the end of this week’s reading) and all-encompassing, but at the same time simple because He is the one true God. **As noted in the reading, though we refer to God as “He” throughout much of Confirmation, it is important to remember that God is neither male nor female (nor black or white, etc.).*

****Begin the class with prayer.***

**Offer a quick review of last week’s lesson or the material so far.*

ACTIVITY:

#1: Elephant Story:

Read the story below:

One day six blind men were walking down a road together in India. As they were walking, they came upon an elephant. Each of them touched it and had a direct experience with the elephant. One blind man touched the tusk, a second the trunk, a third an ear, a fourth a leg, a fifth the tail, and the sixth the side of the elephant.

The blind men continued on their journey. They began to discuss their experiences with the elephant, and a great argument broke out. The first man stated that the elephant was like a spear. No, said another, it was like a large snake – thick with powerful muscles. The third claimed it was like a warm left – thin, flat, and flexible. The fourth argued that the elephant was like a trunk of a tree. The fifth said he could hold the elephant in his hand – it felt like a rope. The sixth insisted that the elephant was really like a wall.

Try as they might, the blind men could not agree on what the elephant was like. Each was convinced he was right and the other five were wrong. Who was right?

**Take a minute to discuss this.*

Ask the students:

- How is this story a parallel to the Trinity? (everyone has different experiences of God; some see Him as a Father, others see Him as a Spirit, etc.)
- How is the story lacking? (Each man only got to know one aspect of God. While not incorrect, each understanding of the “elephant” (God) was incomplete. **We should make an effort to experience all aspects of God’s character - God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - in our every day lives so we can know Him better.*

DISCUSSION:

- 1) What did you all think about this week's reading? How accurate do you think it was talking about the different ways we see God?
- 2) Look through your lesson's reading and the various images of God. Can you relate to any of those images of God? If so, which one do you relate to the most?
- 3) How do you think as Christians we need to re-think the way we see and relate to God? (not see Him as a "Him"), not see Him as a mean judge, not only ask Him for things like we do vending machine, etc.)
- 4) What does sovereign mean?
- 5) What does holy mean?
- 6) God is so huge! What are some great things about God being so big? (He's in control, there's nothing He can't do, etc.)
- 7) God is also personal. Jesus, for example, came down on earth to live with God's people! What are some great things about that? (He comforts me, He cares about my life, etc.)
- 8) How can we be comforted by the fact that God was fully human on earth? (faced the same temptations we did, can relate to every situation, etc.)
- 9) If Jesus went to your school, what kinds of things do you think he would do? (think of others before himself, love everyone, be confident, share, etc.)
- 10) How could you do some of those things in your school? (take friends' trash to the trash can after lunch, open doors for others, be a good listener, etc.)
- 11) How can we find strength in the resurrection of Christ?
- 12) How can you experience God's presence through the Holy Spirit? (reading Scripture, praying, doing God's work, serving God's people, etc.)
- 13) What are some things the Holy Spirit empowers us to do on a daily basis?
- 14) One of the questions in the reading asked if you have ever felt the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Would anyone like to share with the class if you have? What was that experience like?
- 15) If the Holy Spirit is really that important, how can we follow it more than our own goals and/or plans? (look at situations through the eyes of God, make sure the things we do honor God, etc.)
- 16) The title of this week's lesson is "Who is God? Who am I?" How do the different Persons of God help you understand more about who you are? (Some examples are below.)
 - a. God the Father/Creator helps us see ourselves as creatures/human beings;
 - b. Jesus helps us see our sin and imperfections
 - c. the Holy Spirit allows us to see how much we can do and be with the power of God in us!... etc.

EXPLAIN/SAY:

Confirmation is "making firm" our commitment to Christ and accepting Christ as our Lord and savior. Following Christ is more than a onetime decision, it is daily choices to draw close to Christ and trust him in every aspect of our lives. Some of us may have grown up in the church and always felt connected to Christ and others may have never known about Christ until starting confirmation.

I want us to take a minute to pray and consider how we will make firm our relationship with Christ. When we pray I will allow for a few moments of silence. In the silence I would encourage you to invite Christ into every aspect of your life and ask for the wisdom and courage to live as examples of Christ's love. If you have never asked Christ into your life and you want Christ to be your Lord and Savior, after the moment of silence, I will guide you through a prayer of salvation.

Prayer: Will you bow your heads in prayer... (moment of silence). God we are thankful that you hear our prayers and you long to be in a relationship with us. If there is anyone here that would like to invite you into their life for the first time may they repeat this prayer in the quietness of their heart; *Dear Lord, I believe that Jesus died on a cross for my salvation (pause). I admit I am a sinner and have done many things that do not please you (pause). I am sorry and I ask you to forgive me (pause). I come to you now inviting you into my life and ask you to take control of my future (pause). Help me to live every day in a way that pleases you (pause). I love you, Lord, and I am thankful that I am a new creation (pause). God we are all thankful that you love us. Let us make firm our faith and live for your glory every day. Amen.*

SAY: *If there is anyone who invited Christ into their life for the first time we want to celebrate with you so be sure to let an adult leader know and your peers as well. If anyone here wants more specific ways to grow in your faith or would like an adult to be praying for a specific area of your life, please let us know.*

**Finish with anything else they'd like to discuss (Go the extra mile) and then close the class in prayer.*