

Section 3: The Trinity | Trinitarianism
Lesson 3.1—*Monotheism—There is only one God*

Memorize

Q3.1— Is there more than one God?

A3.1— “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” – Deuteronomy 6:4

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. The Trinity is the biblical doctrine that there is one God in three persons. This might be confusing to many people at first, but as we examine key texts and doctrines, it is revealed not only as the true biblical teaching, but as a necessary view for what God must be like.
2. It is common for Muslims to assert that the Trinity is just Christianity’s way of worshiping three different gods. How might you respond to that assertion?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Deuteronomy 6:4—What does it mean that God is one? **(Actually, in this verse, to say “God is one” rather than saying “there is one God” is a means of saying that God is in perfect unity. There is too much Hebrew to get into here, but essentially had He intended to only teach monotheism here, he would have chosen a different word than he did. Nevertheless, this is a clear refutation of the idea of polytheism. Now would be a good time to explain to students that monotheism means the worship of one God, whereas polytheism is the worship of multiple gods.)**
2. Isaiah 44 is just one of multiple Isaiah chapters in a row often referred to as “the trial of the gods.” Here are passages where God essentially mocks the concept of polytheism and stresses that He is the only God. Read and discuss:
 - a. 44:5–6—How important does it seem to God in these verses to stress that He is the only God?
 - b. Isaiah 44:6—Who is talking? **(The LORD *and* His redeemer. Even this verse for monotheism still hints at the Trinity. The LORD *and* His redeemer say “I” and “besides me.”)**
 - c. 44:7–8—How does prophesy testify of God as the only God? **(In Isaiah, God refers to Cyrus by name, over 100 years before Cyrus ever existed, and says he will be the one who leads His people back to Jerusalem out of an exile that had not even happened yet. Daniel directly prophesied that the king of the Greeks would conquer fast, be struck down early, his kingdom would divide into four, and that the leader of one of those kingdoms would persecute the Jews and desecrate the temple. This is like reading a history book before any of it even happened. It perfectly describes Alexander the Great, the four major kings who took his spot to Hellenize the world, including Antiochus Epiphanes who persecuted the Jews and sacrificed a pig to Zeus in the temple. In this same prophecy Daniel predicted down to the very year the exact time the Christ would be born. This was not in vague language. It was even interpreted for us in direct language. There is not even a hint of prophecy like this from any other “holy” book.)**
 - d. 44:9—What does God say is the result of worshiping a god in your own image? **(It makes us useless. These are illusions of gods.)**
 - e. 44:10–20—How does God mock the concept of making idols? **(This is not an outdated form of worship. Hinduism is a *massive* religion that makes and worships statues.)**
3. Isaiah 45:21–22—Does God leave any room for believing that there is more than one God?
4. Deuteronomy 4:35–40—In this passage, why did God stress the fact that He is the only God? How were the Israelites to respond? **(In worship, in thankfulness, and in obedience to Him. This is different from the pagan nations that compartmentalized which gods were over what areas of their life. When something good happened, they didn’t know which god to thank. When something bad happened, they might not have been sure which god was angry. What if making one god happy made another god angry? What happens then?)**

5. Romans 3:30—Some false teaching taught that the God of the Old Testament Jews was different than the God of the New Testament church. How does this verse destroy that false doctrine? **(There is one God over all.)**
6. 1 Corinthians 10:19–20—What is Paul saying about the gods of other religions? **(It is not that they are merely nonexistent, they are demons masquerading as real gods! This is why these religions have so much influence.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Exodus 20:3—What are some things we might tend to put “before” God? In what way is that a display of worship?
2. Jeremiah 2:13—What are the two evils? Examine your own heart. What “broken cisterns” have you been tempted to go to instead of the fountain of living waters?

Section 3: The Trinity | *Trinitarianism*

Lesson 3.2—*The Trinitarian Name*

Memorize

Q3.2— What is the name of this God? | *Trinitarianism*

A3.2— “The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Pretend someone came in ready to hear what we believe. They say, “I believe everything you are saying, but I do not think the Trinity makes sense, so I do not believe that.” How would you respond?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Matthew 28:19
 - a. What significance is there that in sending out the apostles, Jesus encouraged them to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit? **(This is where we were to find our identity in our God.)**
 - b. What does it teach us that He says, “the name” instead of the “names” of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **(It shows the Father, Son, and Spirit are one. They share one name.)**
 - c. What is the significance of being baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit? **(That is our identity. We are baptized in the name of the Trinity!)**
2. 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - a. What is emphasized about the Son? **(His grace. This is not, and none of the rest of these descriptors are meant to say that the Father or the Spirit are not gracious, or that the Son is not loving. It is meant to emphasize that from our perspective in relationship, there are certain roles within the godhead that are emphasized. Christ’s grace is emphasized here in that He is the means of our salvation by grace.)**
 - b. What is emphasized about the Father? **(His love. In that He loved us by sending His Son.)**
 - c. What is emphasized about the Holy Spirit? **(His communion. In that He abides with us as the Helper who guides us into all truth.)**
 - d. What does it tell us that after this blessing Paul says “amen?” **(It is a blessing and prayer to all three at once.)**
3. 1 Peter 1:2
 - a. What is emphasized about the Father? **(Our election. He chose us in Christ and sealed us in that election by the Spirit.)**
 - b. What is emphasized about the Spirit? **(Our sanctification. He makes us holy as He testifies of the Son who testifies of the Father.)**
 - c. What is emphasized about the Son? **(Obedience to Him and being forgiven by His blood. He was sent from the Father and Hebrews says He offered His blood by the Holy Spirit.)**
 - d. What does it tell us that Peter emphasizes all three in our salvation?
4. Isaiah 48:16—Who do you see here? **(God is speaking. And yet God says God and His Spirit sent Him? This is God the Son saying that the Father and the Spirit sent Him. Jesus read this passage in Luke and said it was about Him.)**
5. Genesis 1:26—Whose image are we made in? Why does it say “Us?” **(Some people say this is God talking to angels. But we are not ever said to be made in the image of angels and God, but just of God.)**
6. John 15:26—Who do we see here? **(The Helper (Holy Spirit) will come sent by Jesus from the Father. His role is to testify of Christ.)**
7. John 14:9–10—Even though Jesus repeatedly says He is the Son of the Father and never claims to be the Father Himself, what does this tell us about the relationship between the Father and the Son? **(They are united as one. Hence the one name.)**
8. Matthew 3:16–17—Who do we see here? What does each one do?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. How might you explain the Trinity now that we have examined this lesson?

Section 3: The Trinity | *Trinitarianism*

Lesson 3.3—*The Person of the Father*

Memorize

Q3.3— How do we describe the Father?

A3.3— “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” – Ephesians 4:6

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why is it significant that Christianity teaches that God is “Father?” Consider that no other major religion considers God as a Father.
2. What does it tell us about God that He is described as “Father?”

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Ephesians 4:6—What does it mean that the Father is above all? **(His authority. Notice, God is above “all.” His authority is over all men, not just Christian. He has all authority and power.)** Through all? **(Again, through “all.” His sovereignty is such that it works through us exactly what He has willed. He is in control.)** In us all? **(Notice the change. Not “in all” but “in you all.” That is, in us as Christians. This is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Father is in us all as Christians. He is the one who has sealed us as “children of God.” In other words, He has adopted us into the family of “the Father.”)**
2. Was God known as Father even in the Old Testament?
 - a. Deuteronomy 8:5—What does this verse show us about our relationship with God as Father? **(God chastens those who are His children. He disciplines them for their good.)** After discussing this question, read Hebrews 12:6–11 to see how this expounds on that **(To be someone who is not disciplined by the Father is a scary thing. It means we are illegitimate, and not children. God’s discipline is not meant to destroy Christians, but to grow them.)**
 - b. Deuteronomy 32:6—What does this show us concerning God as Father? **(God buys us. Because of sin, we were not His children. He must adopt us by His grace. He also establishes us as His people.)**
 - c. Psalm 103:13—What does this verse teach us about God as Father? **(He pities us. He has compassion on us as a Father does toward His children. We should not view God as an angry or impatient Father, but as one who has great pity on us.)**
 - d. Malachi 2:10—What does it mean that God is Father here? **(He is the creator of all. He is our source.)**
 - e. Isaiah 63:16—How certain was Isaiah that God was the Father of those who believed in Him? **(NKJV says “doubtless.”)** What else does this verse show us about the Father? **(He is our redeemer. The one who buys us back. And He is everlasting. That is, He has always existed and will never end.)**
 - f. Isaiah 64:8—What do we learn about God as Father here? **(He is the one shaping us as He pleases just as a Father’s role is to develop their children in their character.)**
3. Matthew 6:6–8—What does this tell us about the type of relationship we should have with our Father? **(An intimate one. Even referring to Him as “your Father” speaks volumes. Telling us we should speak to Him in secret, telling us that He already knows what we need. This should not be used as a verse to say, “well if He already knows, then why ask?” It should be used to say, “Wow, of course He already knows what I need, just as a good earthly parent usually knows what the child needs before they ask. They know out of love, and they are ready to give generously.)**
4. John 4:23—What does this show us about the Father? **(He is worthy of worship.)**
5. 2 Corinthians 1:3—What is the Father known as in this verse? What does that teach us about what the Father is like? **(He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus. That is, as truly man, Jesus walked in complete submission to the Father. He is also the Father of mercies. We should not think of God as a Father seeking to strike us down as soon as we mess up, but one who has mercy on us and gives us every good thing we experience. He is also the God of all comfort. When we are in pain, fear, worry, etc. we can run to the God of all comfort. He can comfort us in all things.)**

6. James 1:17—What is the Father described as here? What does that tell us about Him? **(He is the Father of lights. That is, He does not trick us. He is exactly who He claims He is. He does not change. He is not a Father who is unpredictable in His promises.)**
7. 1 John 3:1—What is our identity as Christians in this verse? **(Children of God who are loved by our Father.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Ephesians 3:14—Who does Paul pray to? Whose family does the church belong to? Who is the one who grants us to grow in the faith? **(The Father!)**

Section 3: The Trinity | Trinitarianism
Lesson 3.4—*The Father's Work in Salvation*

Memorize

Q3.4—What did the Father do for us?

A3.4— “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What difference does it make in understanding what role the Father had in our salvation? **(We must understand this to better understand the Trinity. When we see that the Father is the *sender* of the Son, and not the Son Himself, that makes all the difference in the world.)**

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 3:16
 - a. What does this verse emphasize about the Father? **(He loved us. He gave. He has an only begotten Son.)**
 - b. What does it tell us about the Father that He loved us by giving? **(God is a giving God and a loving God. The Father as a giver of great mercy and one who loves us was in many of the previous lesson's verses. It is foundational to understanding God as Father.)**
2. John 6:44—How can we come to Jesus? **(Only when the Father draws us to Him.)**
3. Romans 8:32
 - a. What did God not spare? Why would it have been easy to spare Him? **(God did not spare His own Son. It would have been easy to not send His Son because we did nothing to deserve grace.)**
 - b. Why did God deliver up Christ? **(For us all. Again we see the love and generosity of the Father.)**
 - c. What else does Paul say we will receive from the Father since He has already given us His Son? **(All things, freely. Again we see the provision and generosity of the Father. This is why earthly fathers are challenged to provide for their families and know how to give good gifts to their children. They should seek to reflect our heavenly Father.)**
4. 2 Corinthians 5:18–19
 - a. What do we learn about being saved here? **(We were reconciled to the Father through the Son. Also consider how this verse destroys the heretical and blasphemous view that the Father was forcing the Son to some sort of divine “child abuse.” Here we see that God the Father was *in Christ* reconciling the world to Himself. Additionally, Jesus said He laid down His life of His own accord.)**
5. Galatians 4:4–5
 - a. Why did God send His Son, according to this verse? **(To redeem us. That is, to buy us back. We were under the law, doomed to fail. But He redeemed us by grace.)**
 - b. What did He do to make us sons? **(Adopt us. This is the joy of being a child of God.)**
6. Ephesians 1:3–5
 - a. Who has blessed us in Christ? **(The Father.)**
 - b. What has He blessed us with? **(Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. That is, He has given us His Son so that we can have everything the Son has. We have the righteousness of the Son, the inheritance of the Son, the sanctification of the Son. He is all in all. And it is all because the Father sent Him to us to bless us! He's adopted us. Because we are adopted as sons, we get to share in everything His only begotten Son has the right to.)**
7. 1 Peter 1:3
 - a. According to what did the Father save us by Christ? **(His abundant mercy)**
 - b. How does Peter describe our salvation? **(Being begotten to a living hope. This is being born again. We are adopted to share with the only begotten Son. Salvation is a new birth. Being adopted into the family of the Father.)**

- c. Once we are adopted, can this ever be undone? **(No. It is an inheritance that cannot go away.)**
- 8. 1 John 4:9–10
 - a. Many people seek emotional experiences in worship to “feel” like God loves them. But what does this passage teach us about how to best see that God loves us? **(Meditating on the fact that He sent us His only begotten Son so we might live. We were dead, but the Father sent His Son to make us alive.)**
 - b. Does the Father’s love depend on us loving Him first? **(No. It is not that we loved Him, but that He loved us and sent His Son for us to be forgiven. Do earthly children need to first love their earthly father before they will love them? God forbid.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

- 1. 1 John 5:11—How does this verse sum up our salvation? **(Our life is in Jesus. But this life was given to us by the Father.)**

Section 3: The Trinity | *Trinitarianism*

Lesson 3.5—*The Person of the Son*

Memorize

Q3.5— Who is God's only begotten Son?

A3.5— "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." – 1 John 4:15

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Can someone truly know God if they say they believe in God but not Jesus? What would be wrong about that?
2. The true Jesus of Scripture and orthodox Christianity has been repeatedly twisted into whatever people want Him to be. What are some different ways people have made a Jesus in their own image?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 1 John 4:15—What does John say about the importance of confessing Jesus as the Son of God? **(It is the difference between whether God truly abides in us or not. It is also the difference of whether we abide in God or not. This is about truly knowing God. No one can truly know God without knowing the Son.)**
2. John 1:1
 - a. Who is "the Word?" What does this mean? **(Jesus is the Word. Verse 14 says He became flesh and lived among us as the only begotten of the Father, so there's no doubt this is the Son. "The Word" is Logos in Greek. It carries with it the meaning that Jesus is ultimate reality. He is the way, truth, and life. He is the source in whom all things are held together. To say Jesus is "The Word" is to practically say that Jesus is the source and sustainer of all things.)**
 - b. Who was the Word with? **(God. That is, He is distinct from God.)**
 - c. Who was the Word? **(God. That is, He is God. Together with the previous statement, we understand that the Son is truly God just as much as the Father is truly God. Yet, they are distinct. The Father is *not* the Son. The Son is *not* the Father.**
3. John 1:3—What was made through the Son? **(All things.)** Are there any exceptions to this? **(No. Without Him, there was nothing made that was made. In other words, of all the things that are made, absolutely none of it was made without Christ being the one to make it.)**
4. John 1:14
 - a. What does this tell us about the Son existing before He was born as truly man? **(He existed with God from eternity.)**
 - b. What did the Son show us? **(The glory of the Father.)**
5. John 1:18—What did Jesus do for us in relation to the Father? **(Showed us what He is really like. Jesus became like us so that we can understand who God really is.)**
6. John 5:18—Sometimes people say that they might admit Jesus is the Son of God, but that is a lesser form of God. This is a complete misunderstanding of what it means to be the only begotten Son of God. How does this verse show that?
7. John 10:30—Is the Son equal to the Father?
8. Hebrews 1:1–3
 - a. 1:1–2—How did God make the worlds? **(Through the Son.)**
 - b. 1:3—Who is the Son? **(The express image of His person. That is, everything that the Father is, the Son is precisely that. He is, as it were, a carbon copy of the Father. Whatever divinity the Father has, so the Son has.)**
 - c. 1:4–5—Is Jesus just a really glorious angel? **(Jehovah's witnesses say precisely that. They say Jesus was the archangel Michael. The literal first being ever created by the Father. This of course denies John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:2, along with countless other verses. But it also denies these verses which specifically say Jesus is not an angel, and as the Son is distinct from any angel. Additionally, to be "begotten" means to have the same nature as the Father and is not a reference to being created.)**

- d. 1:6—What do angels do toward the Son? **(They worship Him. Only God should receive worship. The Son is God.)**
 - e. 1:8—What does the Father call the Son? **(“O God.”)** What does He say is true about the Son? **(He will reign forever and ever. This is an eternal Son who is worshiped, who created all things, who reigns for eternity with absolute righteousness. How could the author be any clearer that the Son is God?)**
 - f. 1:10—What does the Father call the Son? **(“LORD.” A quotation from Psalm 102. He calls the Son YHWH God. LORD all caps means the Hebrew is the name of God. The Father just called the Son the God of the Old Testament!)**
9. John 17:5—How long did the Son have glory with the Father? Was this a shared equal glory? **(Before anything was created. Yes, it was a shared glory. The Son is as glorious as the Father.)**
 10. Colossians 1:15—Who is the Son? **(Cults twist this to say that Jesus is the first of all God’s creatures. That is not what it says of the Son anywhere. In fact, we have already looked at multiple verses that say precisely the opposite. For Christ to be the firstborn of creation is to mean He has the rights of the firstborn, not that He is created [consider that David is referred to as the firstborn even though we know he had multiple older brothers]. In fact, the very next verses tells us that the Son is not a creature, but that He Himself was the one who created all things.)**
 11. Isaiah 9:6—Who is the Son? **(You can review any of these words. One that might confuse some readers is “Everlasting Father.” Having spent the past two weeks learning about the Father, it is important to point out that the literal translation of this phrase is not “everlasting Father” but “Father of Everlasting” or “Father of Eternity.” Again showing that the Son is the creator of all things and the *Logos*.)**
 12. Matthew 14:33—What does it tell us about the Son that He is worshiped?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. 1 John 5:12—Can someone know God without knowing the Son? **(No. To deny the Son is to deny the Father. In fact, this is a great argument against cults that teach that the Son is a creation. If there was a time when the Son did not exist, that would mean there was a time God was not the Father.)**
2. John 20:31—Where is life? **(In His name.)**

Section 3: The Trinity | Trinitarianism
Lesson 3.6—*The Work of the Son in Salvation*

Memorize

Q3.6— What did the Son do for us?

A3.6— “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” – Romans 5:10

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to have to reconcile us to God? Why did it have to come through His death?
2. How does knowing what Jesus did change the way we view sin and forgiveness?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our verse comes from Romans 5. Read the following verses and discuss:
 - a. Romans 5:6—What was our state when Christ died? (**“Without strength.” We were helpless. This is something people cannot understand about sin apart from God’s Word. We were *dead* in trespasses.**) Who did Christ die for? (**The ungodly. People underestimate the seriousness of sin who question how God could send people to hell. Sin means we are totally isolated from God to the point of being defined as “ungodly.” Left to our sinful nature, we are totally opposed to God. This is who Christ died for.**)
 - b. 5:7–8—What does Paul contrast Jesus’s death with? (**He compares it to the concept that among earthly situations, people will rarely die for someone else. When they do, it is usually out of a sense that this person deserves to live. But Christ died for us even when we were ungodly, spiritually dead sinners.**) What was our state when Christ died, according to this verse? (**Sinners. This is what defined us. This isn’t the picture of a damsel in distress begging the hero to save them, and then the hero dying for them. This is a gracious God dying for enemies and changing their hearts to love Him!**)
 - c. 5:9—How are we justified? (**By His blood. Justification means to be declared righteous. It is a legal declaration that God is declaring us right with Him because Christ’s blood has paid our penalty. The penalty for sin is death. That is why a perfect sacrifice of death was necessary. God did not merely sweep our sins under the rug. They were paid for by Christ’s blood.**) What did Christ save us from? (**The wrath of God. Make sure they recognize it is Christ’s wrath that is poured out in Revelation. Don’t let them get the false picture that the Son saves us from the Father’s wrath. Remember, it was the Father who loved us and sent His Son. It is the Son who says He is the judge. Christ saved us from the wrath of “Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” In any case, we must stress that what Christ saved us from is wrath. The gospel has been watered down to being God saving us from our anxieties and fears. That’s not what the Bible emphasizes.**)
 - d. 5:10—What did Christ do for us? What are we described as? (**He took enemies and reconciled them to God.**) Now that we are made right with God, what does Paul say? (**How much more will be saved by His resurrection. In other words, if His death could reconcile us, how much more will His resurrection and life forever give us?**)
 - e. 5:11—Again, what word does Paul use to describe what Christ did for us? (**Reconciliation. He turned enemies into children.**)
2. Colossians 1:19–20—Why was Jesus’s sacrifice different than if just a really good man died for us? (**He was a sinless man, fulfilling what Adam could not. He was also God. All the fullness of God dwelt bodily. This is why He was the perfect mediator. Truly God and truly man.**) Who did He reconcile people to? (**Himself.**) How was peace made in this passage? (**By the blood of His cross. Again, the blood and the cross are made a big deal of. We must make a big deal of the blood and the cross as well.**)
3. John 3:16—How do we receive this reconciliation?

4. Colossians 2:13–15—What did Christ do with our sins at the cross? **(He was paying for it all. He was nailing it to the cross in a sense. Removing all the debt we owed.)**
5. Romans 8:1—How sure can a Christian be that their sins have been paid for by Christ? **(Our sins are so paid that we have *no* condemnation.)**
6. 2 Corinthians 5:21—How did Christ’s death pay for our sins? **(Christ was sinless. He became sin for us on the cross in that He bore the wrath for us. He took our sins upon Himself so that we could become His righteousness. It is a great exchange. Our sin for His righteousness.)**
7. Philippians 3:9—What does it mean to be justified according to this verse? What do we have? Where does it come from? **(We are found in Christ. It means that we are not judged for our righteousness or unrighteousness based on how good or bad we live according to law. Rather, we have a righteousness not our own. The righteousness of Christ. We received this through faith.)**
8. Romans 3:24–25—What does this salvation cost us? **(Nothing. We are justified *freely*.)** Does anyone know what a propitiation is? **(It essentially comes down to a sacrifice that satisfies the debt in full. He paid it all with His blood. We receive it by faith.)**
9. Titus 3:5–6—What is our righteousness *not* by? **(Works of righteousness which we have done.)** What is our righteousness according to? **(His mercy.)**
10. Hebrews 2:14–15—Why did Jesus partake of flesh and blood? **(To be our representative. We were under bondage of death and Satan. He came to destroy the devil and death.)**
11. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57—What two things did Jesus come to save us from in this passage? **(Death and sin.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. John 1:12—How do we receive this life?

Section 3: The Trinity | Trinitarianism
Lesson 3.7—*The Person of the Holy Spirit*

Memorize

Q3.7— Who is the Holy Spirit?

A3.7— “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” – John 14:26

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the name “Holy Spirit?”
2. How does the Holy Spirit work in a believer’s life?
3. What are some misconceptions people might have about the Holy Spirit?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our verse comes from John 14. This is part of a large section of John where Jesus speaks comfort to His apostles before He is arrested. A key part of that comfort is that when He leaves, the Holy Spirit will be sent to be with all who believe in Him. Read and discuss the following verses from this section:
 - a. John 14:25–26
 - i. Why does the concept of Jesus leaving relate to the Holy Spirit coming? **(It shows us that the Son is distinct from the Holy Spirit. It also shows that there are particular roles within the Godhead)**
 - ii. What does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit as, and what does this show us about what the Holy Spirit is meant to do for us? **(the Helper. He is a present help to ensure our walk with God will endure to the end.)**
 - iii. Who sends the Holy Spirit and in whose name? **(The Father, in the name of the Son. So the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. Yet He is also equal to the Father and the Son as a Helper and one who is with us.)**
 - iv. What does Jesus say is the job of the Holy Spirit? **(Teach us and bring to our remembrance all that He said. Remember that this is especially true for the apostles. They wrote Scripture as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.)**
2. Psalm 139:7–8—What do we learn about the Holy Spirit here? **(He is omniscient and omnipresence. These are attributes that only God can have.)**
3. Acts 5:3–4—How does this show us that the Holy Spirit is God? **(They lied to the Holy Spirit... they lied to God.)**
4. Romans 8:26—What does the Holy Spirit do for us? Is this the work of an impersonal force or a person?
5. 1 Corinthians 2:10–11—What is said of the Holy Spirit here?
6. 1 Corinthians 3:16—Why are we the temple of God? **(Because the Holy Spirit, who is God, lives in us. This is only true for Christians.)**
7. 1 Corinthians 6:11—How were we washed, sanctified, and justified? **(In the name of Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.)**
8. 1 Corinthians 12:11—What does it tell us that the Holy Spirit gives the church gifts? What does it tell us that He gives them as He wills? **(He has a will. He is a person, not an impersonal force that God uses. He is the one who gives the gifts, and He does it as He desires.)**
9. 2 Corinthians 3:17—Who is the Lord? **(The Spirit. They are one.)**
10. Galatians 4:6—What is the proof that we are children of God? **(He has put His Holy Spirit in our hearts.)**
11. Ephesians 4:30—What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit? **(If He can be grieved, He is not an impersonal force. He is a person. We can grieve Him just as we can grieve the Father or the Son.)**
12. Hebrews 9:14—What is the Holy Spirit described as here? **(The eternal Spirit.)** How does this prove He is God? **(Only God is eternal. Since Jesus clearly told us the Holy Spirit is distinct from Himself and from the Father, then the Holy Spirit is clearly a person in that one Godhead.)**

13. Jude 1:20—What are we to pray in? How does this show He is God? **(Most prayers in the New Testament are triune. They are prayed to the Father, in the name of the Son, by the Holy Spirit.)**
14. Where is the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament? Read and discuss what you see.
 - a. Genesis 1:2 **(The Holy Spirit was present at creation.)**
 - b. Exodus 31:3
 - c. Isaiah 63:10 **(The Holy Spirit is rebelled against and grieved. Grief shows a personhood. Rebellion implies He is rebelled against as God. It then says “He” [referring to the Holy spirit] turned against them and fought against them.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Romans 8:9—Is this true about you? How do you know? **(We know based on our faith in Christ. But 1 John says that the best way to be assured of our salvation is to recognize four things: (1) A desire and practice of obedience, (2) a confession of Jesus Christ, (3) loving others, (4) testimony of the Holy Spirit. Testimony of the Holy Spirit actually covers all the other three. It is the Holy Spirit who guides us to desire to obey and to obey, He is the one who testifies of Christ, He is the one who bears fruit so we can love others. If we are not seeing these things, we are right to question our salvation as a warning so we can learn to fear God and seek Him more. It might just mean we are weak Christians who have forgotten our forgiveness of sins [as Peter says]. Either way, assurance comes best as we listen to and walk by the Holy Spirit.)**

Section 3: The Trinity | Trinitarianism
Lesson 3.8—*The Work of the Holy Spirit*

Memorize

Q3.8— What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

A3.8— “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” – John 15:26

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How does the Holy Spirit guide or convict us?
2. Why do you think Jesus called the Holy Spirit “the Helper.” What was He meant to help us with?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. We began last lesson by looking at part of a large section in John where Jesus speaks comfort to His apostles before He is arrested. Part of that was His promise of the Holy Spirit being sent to be with all who believe in Him. Read and discuss the following verses from this section as we begin examining the work of the Spirit:
 - a. John 15:26
 - i. What is the Holy Spirit described as here? **(The Spirit of truth?)** What does that tell us about what He does? **(Again, He guides us into the truth. He teaches us and helps us remember what the Word of God says.)**
 - ii. Who does the Holy Spirit testify of? **(Jesus. The Holy Spirit’s role is not to glorify Himself. He does not testify of Himself. He testifies of Jesus!)**
 - b. John 16:7—Again we see that the Holy Spirit cannot come until Jesus leaves. Why? **(Jesus must finish the work of redemption. He must pay for our sins, resurrect, ascend into heaven where He is our High Priest. Then the Holy Spirit would be poured out as a guarantee of that redemption. Remember that the Holy Spirit testifies of the work of Christ. Christ needed to finish the work first.)**
 - c. John 16:8–11
 - i. 16:8—Who does the Holy Spirit convict? **(The world. No one can say they were not warned. The Holy Spirit is working to reveal Christ to all. Some will respond to that conviction by repentance and faith. Some will respond by hardening their hearts.)**
 - ii. 16:8—What three things does the Holy Spirit convict the world of? **(sin, righteousness, and judgment.)**
 - iii. 16:9—Why sin? **(Because they do not believe in Christ. This is the reality of sin. The fullness of sin is summed up in not believing in Christ.)**
 - iv. 16:10—Why righteousness? **(Because Jesus was leaving and going to the Father. Jesus was perfect righteousness, and He alone is our chance for real righteousness. The Holy Spirit’s job is to testify of that righteousness and man’s need for a righteous savior.)**
 - v. 16:11— Why judgment? **(Jesus was destroying Satan’s power at the cross as a testimony of a future coming judgment where all men will give account. The Holy Spirit warns people that there will be a coming judgment. Start talking to unsaved people about the hell they are so confident does not exist and see how often they become offended. This is conviction.)**
 - d. Ezekiel 36:27—What did God promise about salvation when the Holy Spirit lives in us?
 - e. John 16:13–14
 - i. 16:13—What is the Holy Spirit called? **(The Spirit of truth.)** What does He guide us into? **(All truth.)** Who does He speak from? **(The Father and the Son. Just as Jesus also only did what the Father told Him. This is to say, the Holy Spirit does not function on His own. There is a Trinity.)**
 - ii. 16:14—Who does He glorify? **(Again, Jesus.)**

2. Acts 1:8—What did the Holy Spirit empower the apostles to do? How does this give us hope in witnessing to others?
3. Romans 8:14—Who is a true child of God? **(Those led by the Holy Spirit.)**
4. Romans 8:26—What does this say to those who claim they do not know how to pray? **(We have no excuses. All of us do not really know everything to pray for as we ought. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.)**
5. 1 Corinthians 2:12–13
 - a. What is the Spirit of God contrasted with? **(The spirit of the world. This is extremely important for all of our lives. There are only two spirits to walk by ultimately: the spirit of the world, which lies under the sway of the wicked one, or the Spirit of God. Which spirit are we really walking in if most of our time is spent indulging things of the world? We must think very carefully about this. We are called to be “called out ones.” Many of us cannot even articulate what it is like to hear from or walk by the Spirit because of how much noise we let the spirit of the world have in us.)**
 - b. Why did God give us the Holy Spirit? **(So we can know the things freely given to us by God. That is, so that we can meditate on and enjoy the promises of God that we have in Christ!)**
6. 2 Corinthians 1:22—What does this say about our salvation? **(We are sealed as a guarantee. This verse silences any who would claim a truly saved individual could become unsaved. It exposes a lack of understanding of what salvation really is. The new birth is a work of God making dead hearts alive and sealing that with a *guarantee* of the Holy Spirit. To claim that can be undone simply by us changing our will is horribly mistaken on many key doctrines of salvation and undermines the work of the Holy Spirit as our *guarantee*.)**
7. Galatians 5:16—What is the key to killing our flesh? **(Walking by the Spirit. Again, either we are following our own flesh and the spirit of the world or we are walking by the Spirit. It can't be both ways.)**
8. 2 Timothy 1:7—What has God not given us a spirit of? What has He given us a spirit of? **(power—An ability to change. Love—A desire to love God and others. Sound mind—This is Greek word that implies living sensibly. Not making irrational decisions. “Self-control” does not appear to be a translation that accurately captures what Paul was getting at. However, it might be best to consider it as a sound mind that leads to self control.)**
9. 1 John 2:27—What does this show us about the work of the Holy Spirit? **(This is a common testimony among the greatest saints of the faith. A lifetime of the Bible being a dry book to them only to one day realize that it was alive. This is my personal testimony. Nineteen years of growing up in the church, thinking the Bible might be true but not really caring much. Then suddenly reading it and feeling like it was completely alive. Suddenly things that never made sense began to be clearly understood. This is only the work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness of Christ.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. 1 John 4:13—What is one way we can have assurance of our salvation? **(Walking by the Spirit. This requires daily listening to Him. Please understand this is not a mystical special “oneness” with the divine. It simply means waiting on the Lord. Coming to Him daily, asking Him to show you how to walk, reading His Holy Spirit written Scripture, and then obeying it throughout the day. You will notice verses and motivations to love God and love others coming to you throughout the day.)**

Section 3: The Trinity | *Trinitarianism*

Lesson 3.9—*One God, three persons*

Memorize

Q3.9— Where does the Bible show the three persons are distinct persons and not just different ways He reveals Himself?

A3.9— “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” – 2 Corinthians 13:14

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Why is it important to recognize that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons and not just three different ways God sometimes reveals Himself?
2. Modalism is the heretical view that God is not three persons, but just sometimes changes modes/forms and shows Himself as if He were sometimes the Father, sometimes the Son, sometimes the Spirit. What do you think is wrong with that view?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - a. How does this prayer differentiate between the three? **(Focus on the roles of the three. Paul does not imply that the Father cannot give grace, or that the Son cannot have communion with us. These are emphases that highlight particular roles within the Godhead from our perspective.)**
 - b. What does the fact that Paul ends this with “amen” tell us? **(This is a prayer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)**
2. Isaiah 48:16—Who sent who? **(The LORD is speaking. The LORD says, “The LORD” sent Him. Also, “His Spirit” sent Him. So the LORD and the Spirit of the LORD sent the LORD.**
3. Zechariah 3:1–2
 - a. This is a foreshadowing of Jesus. What is the High Priest’s name? **(Joshua. In Hebrew, Yeshua. The name of Jesus. Jesus is our high priest.)**
 - b. Who was Joshua standing before? **(The Angel of the LORD.)**
 - c. What did the LORD say? Who was speaking? **(The LORD said, “the LORD rebuke you.” So the LORD called upon the name of the LORD? This is just one of many times in the Old Testament where the Angel/Messenger of the LORD is called “The LORD.” And yet, this Angel, who is called “the LORD” prays “the LORD” rebuke you. This is more evidence of the Trinity.)**
4. Matthew 3:16–17
 - a. Who are the people involved in this story? **(The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)**
 - b. What is the Son doing? **(Being baptized in submission to the Father to fulfill all righteousness as our human representative. He is giving us a visible picture of the heart of God.)**
 - c. What is the Father doing? **(Loving the Son [and therefore, loving us] and testifying that He sent Him. We only hear His voice, but do not see Him because the Son is the image of the invisible God.)**
 - d. What is the Holy Spirit doing and seen as? **(Seen as a dove He is showing Himself to be the Spirit of peace. He rests on Jesus. This word for “rest” implies he is abiding on Him. It is a picture that the Son was being anointed by the Holy Spirit from the Father for ministry. To sum up this passage to the students, you can summarize how this passage emphasizes what much of Scripture emphasizes concerning the three: The Father is the sender who loves us, the Son is the sent one who represents us and dies for us in submission to the Father, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit who anoints and seals and displays the work of the Son.)**
5. Matthew 17:1–5—Who do we see in this passage? How does this disprove modalism?
6. Matthew 28:19
 - a. How many names do we baptize in? **(One name.)**

- b. What is that one name? **(The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. That is one name of the Triune God.)**
 - c. Why is it important that baptism is in the name of the Trinity? **(Consider any cult past or present and you will find a clear denial of the doctrine of the Trinity. That is no coincidence.)**
7. John 15:26—Where do we see all three? What are their roles? **(The Son sends the Spirit from the Father. They are distinct, not just three ways God sometimes acts.)**
 8. Ephesians 4:4–6—Where does the Trinity fit in to essential doctrine? **(Christians are called to have clear unity on specific things. That there is one true church that confesses and believes that one true God. This includes one Spirit, one Lord Jesus, one Father. One baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)**
 9. John 1:1–2—How do we see that the Father and Son are united yet different? **(The Word was God, but was also with God.)**
 10. John 17:1–5—How does this show that the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father? How does it show that they are still one? **(The Son is praying to the Father. The Son has done with the Father has called Him to do. Yet, the Son has been glorified with the Father even before creation. That makes them both equal of the same glory, and therefore both the one God. In the same section of Scripture Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “another Helper” who comes after Him, implying the Spirit also has that same glory.)**
 11. Acts 10:38—Where is the Trinity?
 12. Romans 8:11—Where is the Trinity? **(The Father and His Spirit raised the Son from the dead. Keep in mind John 2:19–21 where Jesus says He Himself raised up His own body.)**
 13. Romans 8:26–27—If it were true that God only sometimes revealed Himself as Father, sometimes as Son, sometimes as Holy Spirit rather than as being three persons, how would that be ignoring this passage? **(The Spirit intercedes for us. If God were just sometimes shifting modes, then who would be interceding? Who would He be interceding toward?)**
 14. Hebrews 7:25—How does this refute modalism? **(Again, who is interceding to who?)**
 15. 1 Peter 1:2—How are all three persons seen in our salvation? What difference is there between the three? **(The difference is in what roles are emphasized in relation to our salvation, not in what each one is capable of.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Jude 1:20–21—How are we called to live in light of the Trinity?

Section 3: The Trinity | *Trinitarianism*

Lesson 3.10—*The Unity of the Trinity*

Memorize

Q3.10— Can someone know God if they do not believe in the Son?

A3.10— “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” – 1 John 2:23

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. If someone said they know God but do not believe in Jesus, how might you respond?
2. Why is the Trinity so important to knowing God?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Our verse today comes from 1 John 2. Read and discuss 1 John 2:18–23
 - a. 2:18—What hour are we living in? **(The last hour. Meaning, Christ has finished the work of redemption and has promised He is coming at an hour we do not expect. He promises He is coming soon. To those who mock at that, one day is like a thousand years, a thousand years is like a day. That was argued even in the first century, so it is not an excuse. It is only because of Christ’s patience and grace that He has not returned yet.)**
 - b. 2:18—What sign is there that this is the last hour? **(Many antichrists. One final Antichrist will come who will be deceive the entire world, but in the meantime there are mini antichrists. John will explain who these are in this passage.)**
 - c. 2:19—Who were some of these “antichrists” John mentions? **(People who had once walked in the church. They claimed to be “of” the church. Yet, they walked away. They abandoned the faith and taught falsehood. John in his letter seems to be specifically referring to Gnostics who denied Jesus’s true humanity, but this can apply to any who distort true biblical doctrine. Notice that John does not say they used to be “of us” but now are not. He argues that they were never truly “of us.” It’s not that anyone lost their salvation. It’s that they were never really saved. Now they have shown the fruit by teaching falsehood.)**
 - d. 2:20—Who are those who are truly saved? **(Only those anointed by the Holy Spirit by faith.)**
 - e. 2:21–23—Who does John say is a liar? **(A person who denies Christ. This person is an antichrist. Notice that by denying the Son John says they are denying the Father as well.)** Why can someone not have the Father if they deny the Son? **(To deny the Son is to inherently deny that the Father is the Father. If there is no Son, then what would that make the Father but *not* a Father? This is why no one can claim to know God without knowing Christ.)**
2. Matthew 11:27—How can we know the Father? How can we know the Son? **(They must reveal the other to us.)**
3. Luke 10:16—What does this show about the unity between the Father and the Son? Who reveals this truth? **(We have read before, the only way to make these confessions is by the Holy Spirit who makes Jesus known.)**
4. John 3:18—What is salvation based on?
5. John 5:23—Did Jesus think He deserved less honor than the Father?
6. John 8:19
7. John 14:6—Can anyone come to know God without knowing Christ as the only way, truth, and life? **(Notice, He did not say He showed us the one way, truth, or life. He claimed to be the way, truth, and life. This is a remarkable claim. It is an exclusive claim. For instance, people often claim Muslims also believe in Jesus and honor him. The true Muslim beliefs about Jesus are nothing close to the biblical Jesus and rely on ahistorical sources, but even if they were historically accurate, they still deny Jesus as the only way, truth, and life. They would say Jesus tried to tell us about the way, truth, or life. But**

those are two completely different things. Jesus is clearly claiming to be God and that no one can know God without knowing Him as God.)

8. We have seen that salvation requires the Son, but what about the Spirit? Read Romans 8:9–11.
9. Galatians 4:6—What is a necessary part of our salvation? **(That we have the Holy Spirit living in us.)**
10. 2 John 1:9—Does John leave any room for salvation apart from Christ?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. 1 Peter 1:2—Which of the three have a role in our salvation? Are these separable?