

Eleventh Grade- God the Father

In this session, we want to continue to explore the nature of God by focusing our conversation and study in on the first Person of the Trinity, God the Father. Our understanding of God is critical to every aspect of our lives, and for many, the idea of God as a Father pokes at wounds and misunderstandings of the role of a Father left by our earthly parents. We want to spend time this week unpacking the role and heart of God the Father as we continue to explore key doctrines of our faith.

Introducing the Topic

As we begin to explore this topic, we want to encourage students to explore what they already know and think about this matter. This will be an important time to set the tone of your conversation and study together! So encourage as much sharing as possible!

-In your experience, what are characteristics of a really good dad? Do you have any stories or examples of really good dads?

-Why do you think the role of a father is so important?

-What do you know about God the Father? Who is He? What is He like?

-Do you have a hard time with the idea of God as your Father? Why or why not?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

-First, lets see what Scripture says about the nature of God: Read Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 28:19-20; Deut. 6:4.

-What do these passages affirm about the nature of God? (God is One, God is Three Persons. Therefore, every member of the Trinity is equally God, and equally share God's attributes)

-So if God is One, than why study members of the Trinity as individuals? Read: Matthew 3:16-17.

-What stuck out?

-Who are the three persons described in this passage?

-Are they all God?

-What is all of their goal in this moment? *(to glorify God)*

-Are they all doing the exact same thing in this story? (*No, they are all doing different things*)

-Explain: Scripture doesn't explain every nuance of the Trinity to us, some of it simply remains a divine mystery that points us to a God that is greater and higher than us, but one of the things it does demonstrate in stories like this one is that God is Three Persons Who all share the exact same Divine Nature, but fulfill different roles. Today we are going to look at the different roles traditionally ascribed to God the Father. Creator, Ruler, and Reconciler.

-Let's see what Scripture says about God the Father as Creator: Read 1 Corinthians 8:6 together.

-What stuck out?

-What does this passage say the Father does?

-What do you think that means?

-Let's see what Scripture says about God the Father as Ruler: Read Isaiah 64:8, and Isaiah 44:6.

-What stuck out?

-What does this passage say God does?

-Why do you think it uses that language?

-Let's see what Scripture says about God the Father as Reconciler: Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

-What stuck out to you in this passage?

-What does this passage say God does?

-How do you see the Trinity in these verses?

Practical Application

In this practical application, we want to help students internalize what they heard from Scripture today. We especially want to help them see how God is fulfilling these rolls in their own lives, and let that be a reason for them to give Him glory.

-If you were to describe the Trinity to someone this afternoon, how would you describe it?

-Why do you think the first member of the Trinity is called "God the Father"?

-Look at the roles of God the Father described in the verses we read today. Which of those stick out to you the most as roles of a good Father?

-How have you seen God as a Father in your life?

-Where in your life is it hardest to trust God as a Father? Why do you think that particularly hard for you?

-What does it mean for our lives *practically* that God is Creator? What about Ruler? What about Reconciler?

-In what ways do we try to compete with God for those roles? What's results do you see in your own life when you try to take the reigns?