

Discipleship

Study provided by UMC Discipleship Ministries, adapted by Kathryn Rauhauser

Gathering

- Reflect and respond to the following: What are some ways people describe you? (i.e., appearance, personality, character, etc.) How are these descriptions accurate or inaccurate? How is the description of you incomplete?
- Read: Genesis 1:1-2:4 and Matthew 28:16-20.

Discussion

- Reflect on Genesis 1:1-2:4. It might sound familiar to you, yet you might be surprised not to hear parts of the creation story that you thought were included in Genesis 1. In this account of the creation story, what do you learn about God?
 - How does God create? What might that indicate about God?
 - What does this passage indicate about the relationship between God and humanity?
- “When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted” (Matthew 28:17, NRSV). Close to the end of Matthew’s gospel, we find that there are doubting worshipers, yet they are still given the Great Commission by Jesus...(Matthew 28:19-20). What does this tell you about God?
 - What does this tell you about followers of Christ?
 - What might this mean for you today?
- When thinking about Trinity Sunday, UMC Discipleship prompts us to remember, “We worship a God who came down like fire and burned a mission into our hearts.” What comes to mind when considering a mission burned into your heart?
 - How might it look to be ready to give your all to accomplish this mission for God’s glory?
- Jeremy Begbie once said that “The Trinity is not a problem to be solved but a reality to be enjoyed.” How does this statement help us when discussing the Trinity? ○ What does it mean to you to enjoy the reality of the Triune God?
- Have someone in the group read Matthew 28:16-20 aloud. How do you hear Jesus’ directive in your life today?
 - How do you hear it differently for clergy or laity?
 - How do you hear it for your community of faith collectively?

Extra Resources

For further discussion and understanding on the Trinity, please check out the following resources.

- Jeremy Begbie Can We see God:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2u20RxqPvo&t=20s>
- St. Patrick’s Bad Analogies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw> ● The

Athanasian Creed: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/creeds/athanasian-creed>

Prayer and Sending Forth

- If studying with a group, share prayer requests and praise reports as well as those on the church prayer list. If studying on your own, take time to pray for those on our church prayer list and lift up your own prayer concerns to the Lord.
- Consider praying the following or a similar prayer: Triune God, we offer our prayers of thanksgiving that you are beyond our understanding. We confess our inadequacy in grasping the fullness of your glory and our tendency to doubt the fullness of your power. Continue to call us as doubting worshipers to be your disciples, taking the commandments of your Son to heart. Amen.