

Study 1. God - The Father

READ: John 14: 1-11, 23 & 24

This study sheet belongs to:



KEY VERSE: 1 John 3: 1

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

THE OLD TESTAMENT

From the time when God chose the Israelites to be His special people, they were encouraged to believe in Him as their Father - the One who cared for them and who planned for their future. This is clearly shown by these two references:-

a. When God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh to ask for the release of the Israelites from slavery, He told him to say, **“Thus says the Lord: ‘Israel is my son, my firstborn. So I say to you, let my son go that he may serve Me’ ”. (Exodus 4: 22)**

b. When the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses reminded them of how God had helped them during their years in the wilderness. He said, **“The Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place”. (Deuteronomy 1: 31)**

Therefore we can see that God viewed the nation as His son, and He displayed all the qualities of a father in leading them out of slavery and into their own country. He continually cared for them physically, educated them spiritually, and disciplined them lovingly when they disobeyed His laws. He loved Israel, just as a good father loves his children, and He watched over them both for their temporal good and for their eternal blessing.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

By the time of Jesus, therefore, the idea of ‘God, the Father’ was firmly implanted in Jewish minds. When teaching His disciples about God, the Lord Jesus frequently used the title ‘Father’ to refer to God, but He went much further than the Old Testament had done, in that He taught His followers to believe in God as **“your Father in Heaven”**. (Matthew 5: 45 & 48)

But even more important than His teaching ABOUT the Father was the fact that in everything He said and did, Jesus showed exactly what the Father was like. He said, **“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”**. (John 14: 9) Jesus is the perfect and final revelation of God, the Father.

But do all people know God as their Father in a personal way? Is this a relationship which is common to all of us? There is a sense in which every created being can claim to be the **“offspring of God”** because it is on account of Him that we **“have our being”**. (See Acts 17: 28 & 29) But to know God in the fullest sense as our Father, we need to take heed of the words of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”**. (John 14: 6) When Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia he said, **“You are all sons of God THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS”**. (Galatians 3: 26)

When we have received the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we can rest secure in the knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father, and as such, He loves us and will provide for us. Our response should be that of a child who has respect for his earthly father, and who lives in a way which will please him and bring credit to him. **“Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” (Philippians 2: 14 & 15)** Our aim as members of God’s family should always be to reflect His character, and to be true to our relationship to Him as Father.

Study 1. God - The Father

- 1 USING *JOHN 1:12*, EXPLAIN HOW A PERSON COMES INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS HIS/HER FATHER.

3

- 2 'LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON' IS AN EXPRESSION COMMONLY USED WHEN A BOY LOOKS, SPEAKS, AND ACTS LIKE HIS FATHER. IN WHAT WAYS SHOULD 'CHILDREN OF GOD' BE LIKE THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER?

3

- 3 READ *PSALM 103:13*, AND EXPLAIN AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN WHAT THE VERSE MEANS.

3

- 4 EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING "THE OFFSPRING OF GOD" AND BEING "THE CHILDREN OF GOD". FOR FULL MARKS, USE SUITABLE BIBLE REFERENCES.

5

- 5 WHAT DID THE LORD JESUS MEAN BY HIS ANSWER TO PHILIP'S REQUEST? (SEE *JOHN 14: 8-10*)

4

- 6 IN 'THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT' (*MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5, 6 & 7*), JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES THAT GOD IS THEIR "FATHER IN HEAVEN". USE THESE REFERENCES TO SUMMARIZE HOW HE CARES FOR HIS CHILDREN:- 6: 7 & 8; 6: 26-32.

3

- 7 USING THE *BIBLE READING*, ANSWER YES OR NO TO THE FOLLOWING:-

- a) Heaven is described as "My Father's House".

 b) Jesus said that there are many ways to the Father.

 c) Thomas said, "Show us the Father".

 d) The Father loves those who keep the words of Jesus.

4

25

Total marks
for this study

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 2. God - The Son

READ: Hebrews 1: 1-9



KEY VERSE: John 20: 28

“Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ”

THE FACT OF HIS DEITY:

There are many people today, including some who are very religious, who deny that Jesus is truly God. But a Saviour who is not truly God is like a bridge broken at its far end! We need, therefore, to be clear in our minds, as well as believing in our hearts, that Jesus is God the Son. **“For in Him (i.e. Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Colossians 2: 9)** If we say someone is divine, we mean that he or she has Godlike qualities. But to speak about ‘the deity of Jesus’ goes much further, for by His deity we mean that He is God! You may wonder if it is necessary to believe that 2,000 years ago, in the land of Israel during the days of the mighty Roman Empire, God lived upon earth as a Man. Do we need to believe and understand that Jesus was not only divine, but that He was and is God? There are two reasons why the truth of the deity of Christ must be at the very foundation of our Christian faith:-

1. Our eternal salvation depends solely upon the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. **“Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life . . . He who believes in Him is not condemned.” (John 3: 16 & 18)** If Jesus is not God, could we ever be quite sure of our salvation?
2. Our strength and guidance for life depend upon the constant presence and help of the Lord Jesus Christ. **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7: 25)** Only someone who is equal with God could do this.

THE PROOFS OF HIS DEITY:

1. The Worship of Men – From the beginning of His earthly life, people came to worship Jesus. We think, for example, of the Wise Men, a demon-possessed man and His disciples. **(See Matthew 2: 11, Mark 5: 6 & 7, Matthew 14: 33)** Men and women from all walks of life acknowledged that Jesus is the Son of God. It is true that many others refused to recognize His deity, but those who did, were doing what was right and pleasing to God, who, in a future day, will ensure that **“every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is**

Lord, to the glory of God the Father”. **(Philippians 2: 11)**

2. His Miracles – The apostle John tells us that the miracles which he recorded in his gospel were written to help us believe that **“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name”.** **(John 20: 31)** His miracles demonstrate our Lord’s power over all the things with which we struggle and which we are unable to control. For example, He fed more than 5,000 people with a few loaves and fish, He healed a man who had been ill for 38 years, and He quietened a storm on the Sea of Galilee. In doing so, He was proving His deity and challenging people to believe in Him. On one occasion, He said to them, **“Though you do not believe Me, believe the works (miracles), that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him”.** **(John 10: 38)**

3. His Authority – One day, when the Pharisees asked, **“Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”** Jesus replied, **“The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”**, and this He did, cleansing the soul and spirit of the paralyzed man, as well as giving him bodily health and strength. **(Luke 5: 17-26)** Many others, too, experienced His delivering power from their sins and from the Satanic evil in which they were held. Their changed lives proved the reality of what had happened!

4. His Resurrection – We believe that only God has power over life and death, yet Jesus spoke of His life in a way which made it clear that He was in total control. Speaking of His life, He said, **“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power (authority) to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”.** **(John 10: 18)** No mere human being could speak like this! Here again, Jesus was asserting His deity!

5. The Witness of God the Father – As soon as Jesus was baptized, the heavens were opened to Him and a voice came from Heaven saying, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.** **(See Matthew 3: 16 & 17)** A second example of God the Father acknowledging that Jesus is God the Son is found in **Hebrews 1: 5** **“You are My Son”.** It is important to note also that in **verse 8**, God addresses the Son as ‘God!’ **“Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever.”** No higher witness to the deity of Christ can be found than that of God Himself! Who are we to question His unreserved commendation and approval of Jesus - the Son of Man and the Son of God?

NewLife WorkSheet

Study 2. God - The Son

1 WHAT IS MEANT BY 'THE DEITY OF JESUS'?

3

2 IN YOUR OWN WORDS, GIVE ONE REASON WHY THE TRUTH OF THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS IS IMPORTANT.

3

3 ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO EACH OF THESE STATEMENTS:-

- a. Jesus never allowed anyone to call Him 'The Son of God'.

- b. All the fullness of the Godhead exists in Jesus Christ.

- c. The Lord Jesus never forgave anyone's sins; He said that only God can do so.

- d. God gave witness to the deity of Jesus at His baptism.

- e. Belief in the deity of Jesus Christ is an essential point of Christian doctrine.

5

4 WHY DID JOHN RECORD THE MIRACLES (OR 'SIGNS') DONE BY JESUS? (SEE JOHN 20: 30 & 31)

2

5 IN JOHN 10: 17-18, JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE EXCEPTIONAL POWER OVER HIS OWN LIFE:-

- a. What did He say no one could do to Him?

- b. What did He say He would do after He had laid down His life?

- c. What do these statements tell us about Him?

5

6 READ THE ACCOUNT ABOUT THOMAS IN JOHN 20: 24-29, AND THEN:-

- a. Write a sentence to explain what conditions Thomas was laying down for believing that Jesus was risen.

- b. Write out Thomas' words from the **KEY VERSE**.

- c. What led to such a remarkable change in the attitude of Thomas?

5

7 WRITE OUT TWO PHRASES IN HEBREWS 1: 1-4 WHICH EMPHASIZE THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS.

2

25

Total marks
for this study

Study 3. God - The Holy Spirit

READ: John 16: 7-15



KEY VERSE: Genesis 1: 2

“The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The **Key Verse** teaches us that the Spirit of God (or ‘Holy Spirit’ as He is often called) played a major role in the creation of the earth. The Holy Spirit is a Person, equal with the Father and the Son, in the Godhead. He possesses all the qualities of Deity. For example:-

1. **Omnipresence** - the ability to be in every place.
Psalm 139: 7
2. **Omniscience** - the ability to know all things.
1 Corinthians 2: 10
3. **Omnipotence** - the ability to do all things.
Romans 8: 11

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Old Testament times, there were occasions when the Holy Spirit gave special ability and strength to chosen individuals.

For example:-

1. Samson, Israel's well-known judge. Concerning him, *Judges 14: 6* says **“The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat”**.
2. Ezekiel, the prophet. **“Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and He said to me, ‘Speak!’ ”** (*Ezekiel 11: 5*)
3. Bezaleel, a skilled craftsman who was responsible for much of the intricate workmanship in the construction of the Tabernacle. Speaking about him, Moses said, **“See, the Lord has called by name Bezaleel . . . and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship”**. (*Exodus 35: 30 & 31*)

But it is in the New Testament that the role of the Holy Spirit becomes much more prominent. Note these areas where He operates:-

1. In the life and service of the Lord Jesus Christ. At His baptism, the Spirit came down, and remained upon Him. (*John 1: 31-34*) In all His teaching and in His performance of miracles, He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. (*Luke 4: 16-21*)

2. In the Church, which was formed by the Spirit's power, as described in *Acts 2: 1-4*. Ever since then, the Holy Spirit has been the Teacher and Guide of the Church. (*John 16: 13 & 14*)

3. In the lives of individual believers. He develops their character, and enables them to become more Christlike. (*Galatians 5: 22-25*)

4. Amongst the masses of people who are as yet unbelievers. The Holy Spirit is unceasingly at work, convincing people that they are sinners, in need of being saved. (*John 16: 7-11*)

Thus we can see that, from the beginning of all things to the end of all things, the Holy Spirit is active. (**See Key Verse and Revelation 22: 17**) He may be compared to the wind which, though we cannot see it, is constantly affecting us in some way. (*John 3: 5-8*)

THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before the Lord Jesus left this earth to go back to His Father, He promised His disciples that He would send them **“another Comforter (Helper)”** who would take His place when He was no longer with them. (*John 14: 16*) This promise was fulfilled ten days after the Lord Jesus returned to Heaven, when His apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. In a miraculous way, the Holy Spirit came upon them. (**See Acts 2: 1-4**) They became **“members of that one body”** of which the exalted Lord Jesus is **“the Head”**. (*1 Corinthians 12: 12 and Colossians 1: 18*) From then onwards, each person receives the Holy Spirit at the very moment of conversion, and becomes part of the Church. (*Ephesians 1: 13*) Each member has the responsibility of **“endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”**. (*Ephesians 4: 3*)

Although we have received the Holy Spirit at our conversion, we must learn to depend upon this special Person to help us in our witness and service for God. We must constantly commit our lives to Him for His guidance in all the decisions which we face. Too often we try to live in our own strength and wisdom, and then we wonder why we fail! Let us, today, thank God for His Holy Spirit, and let us remember that since **“we live in the Spirit”**, we should also **“walk in the Spirit”**. (*Galatians 5: 25*)

At the time of the creation, the Spirit of God was waiting and ready for God's word of command to bring light and life into the darkness; today, He waits for YOU to yield yourself to Him, in order that He may motivate and direct your life, for your highest good and for His eternal glory.

NewLife WorkSheet

Study 3. God - The Holy Spirit

- 1 **EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS THE MEANING OF THESE TERMS BY WRITING A SENTENCE ABOUT EACH OF THEM:-**

omnipotence - _____
 omnipresence - _____
 omniscience - _____

6

- 2 **IN WHAT FORMS DID THE HOLY SPIRIT APPEAR AT:-**

a. The baptism of Jesus? (**MATTHEW 3: 16**) _____
 b. The formation of the Church, on the day of Pentecost? (**ACTS 2: 1-4**) _____

2

- 3 **USE GALATIANS 5: 22 & 23 TO WRITE A LIST OF SIX QUALITIES, OR VIRTUES, WHICH RESULT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATING IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.** _____

2

- 4 **THESE SIX QUALITIES WERE SEEN IN PERFECTION IN THE LORD JESUS. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEKING TO DO TODAY IN THE LIFE OF EACH SAVED PERSON?** _____

4

- 5 **WRITE TRUE OR FALSE AFTER EACH OF THESE:-**

a. The Holy Spirit is only an influence, and has no real personality. _____
 b. The Holy Spirit was active in the creation of the universe. _____
 c. In Old Testament times, no one knew anything about the Holy Spirit. _____
 d. Before He died, the Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to be a Helper, or Comforter, to His disciples. _____
 e. Only some Christians have the Holy Spirit today. _____

5

- 6 **HERE ARE THE NAMES (ALONG WITH THE BIBLE REFERENCES) OF SOME PEOPLE WHOM THE HOLY SPIRIT USED, IN VARIOUS WAYS. DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE FROM EACH NAME TO THE CORRECT REFERENCE.**

Samson	Acts 11: 22-24
Peter	Numbers 24: 2
Stephen	Acts 4: 8
Balaam	Judges 14: 5 & 6
Barnabas	Acts 6: 5
Gideon	Judges 6: 34

3

- 7 **WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (THE "COUNSELLOR" / "HELPER" / "COMFORTER") IN RELATION TO THE WORLD OF UNCONVERTED PEOPLE? (JOHN 16: 7-11 MAY HELP YOU!)** _____

3

25

Study 4. The Holy Trinity

READ: John 14: 15-27



KEY VERSE: Matthew 28: 19

“Go therefore and make

disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Note that the **Key Verse** speaks about **“the Father”**, **“the Son”**, and **“the Holy Spirit”**. Together, they form what is often referred to as ‘The Trinity’, (a word that is not found in the Bible) or **“The Godhead”**. This is, of course, a great mystery, for God is INFINITE - that is to say, He has no limitations and therefore we cannot measure Him. He is the Supreme Being, the Creator and Upholder of the whole universe, and is almighty in His power and His wisdom.

In contrast to God, we, as created beings, are FINITE, which means that we are limited in many ways. All of us soon learn that our powers and abilities are restricted by many factors!

ONE GOD - THREE PERSONS - DIVERSITY

When we attempt to study the subject of the Trinity, we do well to admit our limitations, though there need be no limit to our faith. We can accept the fact that God is ONE GOD, IN THREE PERSONS, even though we do not wholly understand it.

Here are some important points which the Bible reveals:-

- i. There is one God. (**Isaiah 45: 22, Mark 12: 29**)
- ii. Within the Godhead, there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Spirit; each is ‘GOD’ in the fullest sense of the word. (See **Studies 1, 2 & 3**)
- iii. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are quite distinct from each other. This is seen in **John 14: 16** where the Son (Jesus) promises to make request to the Father, who will send the Holy Spirit.

ONE GOD - THREE PERSONS - UNITY

Although the Persons in the Godhead are separate, there are many instances where their unity is clearly displayed. The presence and action of One, involves the presence and action of the Others.

Note how all three are involved in:-

- i. The baptism of Jesus by John. **Matthew 3: 16 & 17**
- ii. His death at Calvary. **Hebrews 9: 14**
- iii. The baptism of believers on the Lord Jesus. **Matthew 28: 18 & 19**
- iv. The giving of the Holy Spirit. **John 14: 26, Acts 2: 32 & 33**

All three Persons of the Godhead are united in being the source of all our blessings, as is clearly seen in

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

ONE GOD - THREE PERSONS - AUTHORITY

The **Key Verse** teaches that baptism is to be **“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**. This was the Lord’s final command to His apostles before He ascended into Heaven. Baptism is a public witness of a person’s conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ. **“In the name . . .”** declares that from now on that person’s allegiance is to the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This command of the Lord lifts the teaching about the Trinity from a merely academic level into something which has to do with our practical Christian living. Being baptized **“In the name . . .”** indicates that we have accepted the rule of the Godhead over our lives.

In the Bible, a name is always much more than a way of telling WHO a person is; rather, it tells WHAT he or she is. (See, for example, **Ruth 1: 20**) When the Lord said, **“baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**, He was emphasising three facts:-

1. The unity of the Godhead.
(Note that **“name”** is singular - not plural!)
2. All who become disciples are under the authority of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. All Christians can rely upon the active involvement of the three Persons of the Trinity in their spiritual and eternal blessing.

This series of Studies began (in Unit A) with the apostle Paul explaining the concept of the living and true God to the philosophers of Athens. THAT happened nearly 2,000 years ago! TODAY, we are challenged to ask, is there still a need to learn about God? In this age of technical and scientific advances, is there a place for the study and application of spiritual truth?

The fact that the all-powerful and holy God has loved us and given His unique Son for our salvation shows clearly the response we should make. Past and present experiences teach us that life brings a mixture of joy and sorrow, of doubts and certainties! To know the love of God the Father, the companionship of God the Son, and the comfort and guidance of God the Holy Spirit, is to have a relevant dimension in our lives which cannot be found anywhere else!

“Do we still have a use for God? This is to put the question the wrong way round! God exists and we exist. Are we ready to be used, for God can use us?” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

NewLife WorkSheet

Study 4. The Holy Trinity

1 'GOD IS INFINITE, BUT WE ARE FINITE'. EXPLAIN WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS STATEMENT.

4

2 READ THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS IN JOHN 14: 25 & 26, THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-

- a. By whom will the Holy Spirit be sent? _____
 b. What other name, or title, is used for the Holy Spirit? _____
 c. What is the work, or function, of the Holy Spirit, according to these verses? _____

4

3 READ MATTHEW 3: 16 & 17, AND EXPLAIN THE PART PLAYED BY BOTH GOD THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AT THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

5

4 A. WRITE OUT THE KEY VERSE. _____

B. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS? _____

4

5 EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, THE MEANING OF BEING BAPTIZED "IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT".

4

6 THE WORD 'TRINITY' LITERALLY MEANS 'THREE IN ONE'. WHY IS THIS WORD VERY SUITABLE AS A NAME FOR THE GODHEAD, EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

4

DOES KNOWING ABOUT GOD, AND BELIEVING IN HIM MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE? TRY TO EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT WHAT THESE STUDIES HAVE BEEN TEACHING.

Return your study sheets to:

or the PBS Centre below

25

Total marks
for this study