

Leader Reminder:

We have had a great response to small group sign ups on Sundays! Don't forget to follow up with the emails we have sent you from the people interested in your group.

Message by Pastor Matt Brown
Discussion Guide by Small Groups Leadership Team

Mystery

Why is the Holy Spirit a Mystery?

ICEBREAKER: Share with the group a strange experience that sort of freaked you out only to later discover it was simply a misunderstanding or just an isolated wierd event?

DISCUSSION: Share what happened this week as you spent time attending to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I. God is a mystery and the Holy Spirit is God.

DISCUSSION: Remember Matt's analogy of us having four limbs and that being normal. Also, remember the analogy of God being three-in-one and that being normal to Him. What is your reaction to the fact that we cannot totally explain the Trinity but rather should concede to the fact that God is different, unique and mysterious?

DISCUSSION: Does Matt's explanation of the Trinity make sense? If not, what are some questions you have about Him?

{EDITOR'S NOTE: Leaders, please write these down, especially if you don't know how to answer and send them to andrew@sandalschurch.com. Do not allow the group go on and on arguing about things for which they are not completely informed. The point is for us to have a response to the Holy Spirit and not to completely understand Him.}

- A. Understanding the mystery of the trinity - one "WHAT" and three "WHO'S".

The WHAT – One God

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV

The WHO- Three Distinct Personalities

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Matthew 28:19 ESV

The Christian word for describing GOD is TRINITY or the GODHEAD.

Understanding God is like trying to drink the ocean. We can drink for a lifetime and never take in all of who God is!

Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 1 Corinthians 13:12 NLT

II. The Holy Spirit is the most mysterious of the three persons.

DISCUSSION: What mysterious things have happened in your life that you can only attribute to the work of the Holy Spirit?

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Genesis 1:2 NLT

The Holy Spirit leaves no footprints.

DISCUSSION: What are the implications for your life if the Holy Spirit is anywhere and everywhere? How should that affect the way in which you live and the decisions you make?

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? Psalm 139:7 NASB

III. The Holy Spirit plays a supportive role.

DISCUSSION: The Holy Spirit's role is to convict us of sin and point us to Christ. Share with the group an experience from your life where you've been convicted of sin and/or been pointed to Christ? How has the Holy Spirit played a supportive role in your life?

DISCUSSION: If you don't feel that you have experienced this, what do you think is the reason? What areas of control do you need to release to His care? In what areas of your life are you not looking to Him for help?

DISCUSSION: What tools have you put in place in order to recognize His presence both in your past as well as now? How do you welcome the Holy Spirit as an instrument of change in your life?

*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. John 15:26
ESV*

IV. The Holy Spirit has always been controversial.

*You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Acts 7:51
ESV*

Why controversy?

1. Lack of information in comparison to Father and Son
2. It's difficult to visualize a spirit
3. Spiritual gifts
4. Denominations

DISCUSSION: To which controversy do most you connect? Why?

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend 5-7 minutes quietly and alone with the Holy Spirit and contemplate (think deeply about) Psalm 139:7 above. Then spend another 5-7 minutes and ask the Holy Spirit, "Where have I tried to go flee from your presence?" Then get into groups of 2-3 people and share and then pray that the Holy Spirit would help you in this area.