

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Trinity

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection



Getting to know God - John 3:1-17

Today is Trinity Sunday when we think about God as three in one ... the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is a mystery to us in so many ways...a comfort, but also uncomfortably challenging. We are going to explore the visible presence of God in this reflection as we try to get to know God...as we try to come to terms with the mystery of God...

In our story today Nicodemus was a clever man who wanted to get to know Jesus, but he was challenged by the ideas that Jesus put forward....the mysterious element of Jesus' words kept him in the dark...

- Spend a few minutes looking carefully at this image...what do you see?
- How does this image show us the presence of God in the world?
- What does the word 'mystery' suggest to you?
- How do you feel about living with the fact that the mystery of God cannot be explained fully? Why do you have those feelings?
- Why might it be important that God remains a mystery to us?
- How can the element of mystery enrich our faith?
- If you had the opportunity to ask Jesus one question, what would it be?

Bible Study Questions

Bible Reading: John 3:1-17 [Good News Translation] – JESUS AND NICODEMUS

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.”

Jesus answered, “I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again.” “How can a grown man be born again?” Nicodemus asked. “He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!” “I am telling you the truth,” replied Jesus, “that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” asked Nicodemus. Jesus answered, “You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me, then, when I tell you about the things of heaven? And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven.”

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

1. Why do you think that Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night?
2. Jesus is using birth as a metaphor for a new life, but what do you understand to be ‘born of water and the Spirit’?
3. ‘We speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message.’ What does this suggest about witnessing to Christ today?
4. Moses put the bronze snake on a pole so all the people could see it. If anyone was bitten by a poisonous snake, they could look at the bronze snake and be made well. This would help them remember that God would take care of them. Jesus equates this with his resurrection which offers eternal life to those who believe. Both of these things could be described as healing, but how do they differ?
5. John 3:16 is said to be the most famous phrase in the bible, ‘God so loved the world...’ but in what manner did God love the world?