## L GROUNDWORK

# The Triune God of the Bible

Christians believe there is only one God. Since its beginning, the Christian faith has always been monotheistic. But after Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, early Christian teachers recognized the divinity of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit and formulated the doctrine of the Trinity to encapsulate these truths. Join us as we explore passages in both the Old and New Testaments that provide the rich foundation for our belief in the Holy Trinity. Together, we'll discuss how the Church creeds have helped us articulate this mystery, aiming to give believers a deeper understanding and experience of God's triune nature.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Are you comfortable with mystery? Why or why not?
- What illustrations have been used to explain the Trinity to you in the past?



#### READ <u>Deuteronomy 6:4-5</u>, <u>Matthew 3:13-17</u>, <u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss with guest Sue Rozeboom the uniqueness of Israel's monotheism against the backdrop of the many polytheistic cultures around them. Do you think Christianity's inherited monotheism is unique among the world religions today? Why or why not?
- Why do you think it's important for us to recognize that teaching the concept of the triune God was not the original intention of Old Testament authors? How does this knowledge help you appreciate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the beauty of God's revelation of himself?
- In segment 2, Darrell, Scott, and Sue discuss several passages in which Jesus references his Father or the Holy Spirit. Make a list of those references. Can you think of other stories or teachings of Jesus you would add to the list?
- Which do you find easier to wrap your head around, the distinction of the persons in the Trinity or their unity? Why?
- In segment 3, Sue suggests that Paul's blessing in <u>2 Corinthians 13:14</u> is an invitation to experience the Trinity rather than comprehend it. What do you think it means to experience the Trinity?

#### **RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

Isaiah 46:9, Hosea 13:4, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 51:10-12, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22

### CONCLUSION

Reflect on the teaching of theologian Catherine LaCugna that Sue shared in segment 3: the doctrine of the Trinity is the Church's teaching of the radical nearness of God to us. How would you explain what that means? In what ways can you see the truth of that statement? Close your time of reflection by giving thanks to God for revealing his triune nature to us in the Bible.

#### https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-triune-god-of-the-bible

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