

Unit 4: Our Beliefs

**Lesson 22:
The Holy Trinity**

Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 22-23

As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:

Lesson Goals As a result of this lesson, I will be able to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehend the concept of the Trinity• Articulate how I perceive and relate to God, considering both abstract and relational aspects of my faith journey• Analyze the story of Job	Class Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WORK HARD• BE KIND• No phones should be out (<i>unless instructed to use them for class</i>)	For Fun! <i>Be ready to share one of the following responses:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your favorite comfort food?• Which do you prefer: stew, soup, or chili?
--	--	--

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

Tentative Agenda

5:00-5:05= Welcome/Opening Prayer

5:05-5:30= Lesson 22: The Holy Trinity

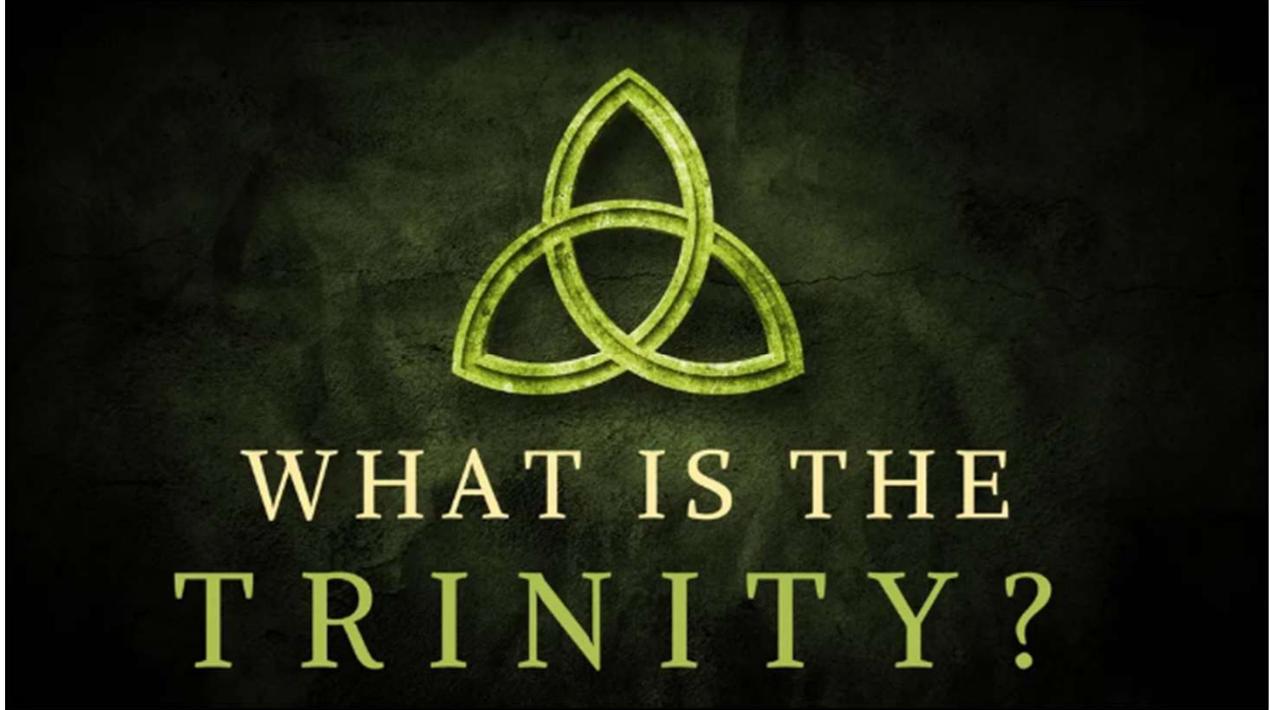
5:30-5:55= Lesson 23: Who Is God? (And Who God Isn't)

5:55-6:00= Wrap Up/Closing

6:00-6:30= Break...Chili Cook Off

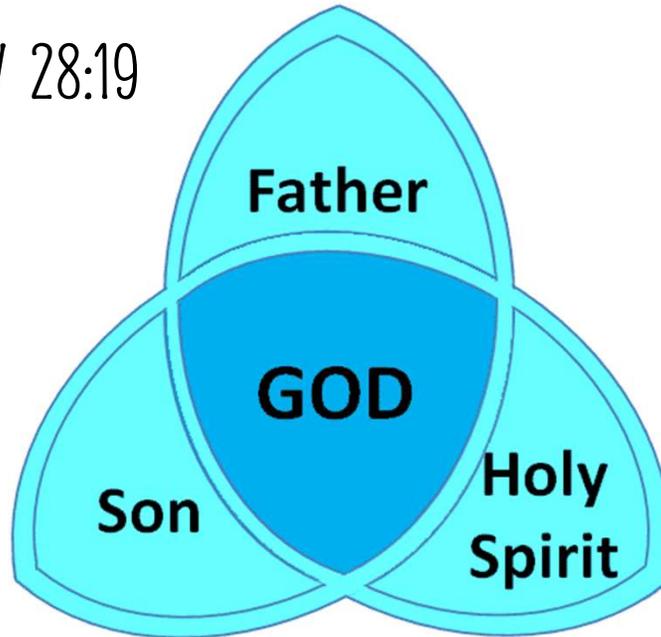
Opening Prayer

Gracious and Almighty God, We come before You today seeking to better understand who You are—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds as we explore the mystery of Your nature and the ways You reveal Yourself to us. Help us to grow in faith as we seek to know You more deeply, even when understanding feels beyond our reach. May our time together strengthen our relationship with You and with one another. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.



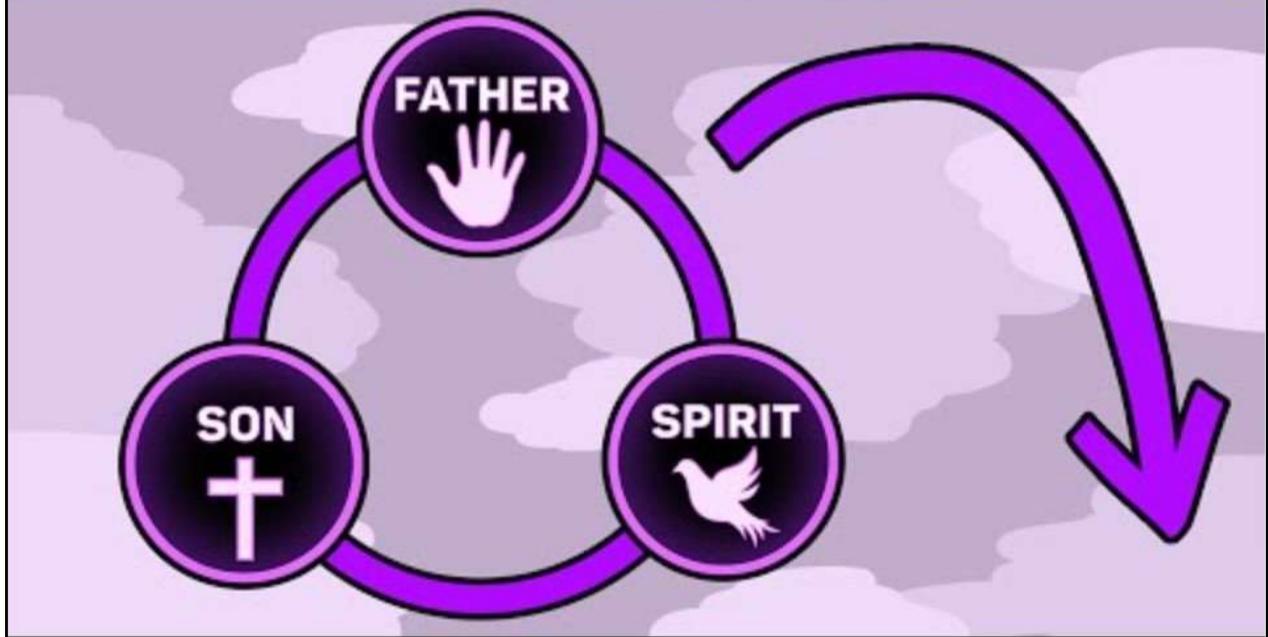
- What is the Trinity?
 - The word "Trinity" comes from the Latin word *Trinitas*, meaning "threefold" or "three in one." TRI: tricycle, tripod, triangle...3.
 - In Christianity, it refers to the belief that God exists as one God in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.
 - These three are distinct but are united in essence, co-equal, and co-eternal, forming the foundation of Christian theology.
 - This doctrine emphasizes that each person of the Trinity is fully God, sharing the same essence, but plays unique roles in creation, redemption, and sustaining life.
 - While the Trinity is central to understanding God, it remains a divine mystery that goes beyond human comprehension.

MATTHEW 28:19



- Read Matthew 28:19.
 - Open your Wesley Bibles to page 1205.
- This passage is called the Great Commission.
 - Jesus says this to his disciples after his resurrection.
 - In Matthew, this scene concludes his account of Jesus; so for Matthew, it is important for the story to end in our hands.
 - Jesus calls his eleven and tells them to go and change the world, to teach what they have witnessed and what they have been taught.
- What does Jesus ask them to do?
 - Jesus tells them to make disciples, signified by baptizing people in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three persons are God.

EXPLAINED DIFFERENTLY...



- WATCH [3 min overview of the Trinity] <https://youtu.be/97aEQBwl-DI?si=jW2o7xAyQl3zRqlg>

“There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

-Articles of Religion, United Methodist Church-

- John Wesley believed that seeing God as three-in-one is an essential way of understanding who God is.
- This way of understanding God—called trinitarian theology—is an important and central part of Christian doctrine.
- In the United Methodist Church, we have adopted what we call the Articles of Religion, statements that declare what we believe.
 - Let’s read the Article on the Holy Trinity.
 - Think about what stands out to you as we read this.
- Read, then ask: When you think about the Trinity, should you focus on the three persons or the oneness of God?
 - Theologically, we can focus on both.
 - The Trinity implies three persons; but Christianity remains monotheistic (we believe in one God), so we need to understand the oneness as well.

Unit 4: Our Beliefs

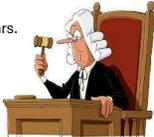
Lesson 23:

Who Is God?

(And Who God Isn't)



- There are many specific ways in which we perceive God.
- The goal is to challenge ourselves to think about God in both the abstract and the relationship sense.
- We all have perceptions of God.
- How we perceive God determines how we consciously and subconsciously include (or don't include) God in our daily lives.
- We probably don't see God one particular way.
- Sometimes our feelings about God change based on where we are and what is going on in our lives.
- Keep in mind that perception of God does not define God.
- God remains constant and present in our lives always.

<p>Common Perception 1. God as the Great Oz</p> <p>Think about the book/movie The Wizard of Oz. The people of Oz see their leader as great and powerful. Dorothy and her friends have to make a journey to find this mysterious Wizard. He is distant and unapproachable, too busy to be bothered with the troubles of his everyday life.</p> <p>Limitation: God is all around us. God is not in a distant place, separate. God is living in our daily lives. We just need to be present and attuned to God's presence all around and in us.</p> 	<p>Common Perception 2. God as the Big Vending Machine</p> <p>Sometimes people only go to God for a quick fix: Insert the right prayer; select what you want; and then God drops your wishes from the sky, meeting all of your desires. We can just get whatever we want and God is there to deliver.</p> <p>Limitation: God isn't whatever we want God to be. God doesn't just exist for us and our purposes; we exist for God's purposes. When we align with God's purposes in the world, that is when we find meaning and fulfillment in life.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS</p>
<p>Common Perception 3. God as a Giant Judge</p> <p>Sometimes we think of God as a big eye in the sky who watches us, waiting in anticipation for us to make mistakes and to pass judgement.</p> <p>Limitation: God is not waiting to pass judgement on us for our mistakes. God is present at times of mourning and at times of celebration. God resides in our laughter and our tears.</p> 	<p>Common Perception 4. God as Cosmic Life Coach</p> <p>A trend today for rich and famous people is to have a life coach, someone to help them with self-improvement and to continue to actualize their dreams of success. What they are seeking is a life of happiness and fulfillment, free from pain. Sometimes we think God is our personal life coach, existing to pave a path of happiness and prosperity especially for us, removing pain and discomfort from our lives.</p> <p>Limitation: God does want to bring meaning and fulfillment in our lives but makes no promise about removing pain and suffering. God does care deeply for each of us, but God seems to have greater purposes than to exist for our own comfort.</p> 	

- Which one of these did you use to picture when you thought about God?

Job 42:1-6 (NIV):

Then Job replied to the Lord:

*“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’

*Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.*

*“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you shall answer me.’*

*My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.*

Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”



- The story of Job helps us see that God is sovereign, just, and compassionate, even when His ways are beyond human understanding.
 - God reveals Himself as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, showing His power and wisdom through His response to Job’s suffering (Job 38-41).
 - At the same time, Job’s story shows who God isn’t: He is not cruel, unfair, or indifferent to human struggles.
 - Although Job’s friends wrongly claim Job’s suffering is due to his sins, God corrects them, demonstrating that He doesn’t fit into simplistic or transactional understandings of justice (Job 42:7-8).
 - This challenges us to trust in God’s goodness, even when life feels uncertain or unfair.
- Read Job 42:1-6 together (on the screen)
- Sometimes it difficult to see God at certain times in our lives.
 - But because we believe in a God who invests in our lives, we can have faith that God is present.
 - We might not see it in the present, but, if we look back, we can see how masterfully God works in all things.
 - It’s hard to understand why God allowed Job to go through so much suffering.
- Job questioned God.

- What's interesting is that when God responded, He didn't give Job a direct answer to 'why' bad things happened.
- Instead, God reminded Job of who He is—His power, His wisdom, and how much bigger His plan is than what we can see.
- It's okay to feel that what happened to Job seems unfair or that life can sometimes feel unfair.
 - But Job's story shows us that God isn't cruel—He doesn't abandon Job, even in his pain.
 - Instead, God reveals His greatness and restores Job's life in the end.
 - Sometimes, we might not get all the answers we want, but we can trust that God's character is good and that He's with us, even in the hardest moments.

Wrap-Up

Confirm Series: Lessons 22-23

As we wrap up class, lets go over a few things together:

Objective The objective of class today was... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehend the concept of the Trinity• Articulate how I perceive and relate to God, considering both abstract and relational aspects of my faith journey• Analyze the story of Job	Application Today's lesson is important to me because...	Upcoming Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday, February 1<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE (5-7pm)• Friday, February 6<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents' Night Out (5-9pm)• Youth Lock-in (9pm-Saturday at 8am)• Sunday, February 8:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation Mentor Meet Up (10am)• NO Confirmation Class (Super Bowl)• Sunday, February 15<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE (5-7pm)
Closing Prayer One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.		