



Anglican
Church of Noosa

Mini-Series

May 2021

THE FULLNESS of God

Pentecost
Trinity

Connect Groups

At the Anglican Church of Noosa, the primary avenue for discipleship is in a Connect Group.

We strongly encourage everyone to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us grow as disciples.

The normal pattern for a Connect Group time is to have three sections: connecting with each other, connecting with the Word and connecting with God through prayer - in any order.

We need time to relate to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways.

As we get into the Word, we examine its truth and relevance in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is explored, explained and discussed, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

A brief intro to Pentecost and Trinity...

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem.

Pentecost symbolises a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel.

It is appropriate that, following the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Christian Church has traditionally celebrated the doctrine of the Trinity. It enhances and defines our understanding of who God is and how he has revealed Himself.

We have the Incarnation [Christmas], the Passion [Good Friday and Easter] and the Ascension, revealing both the humanity and divinity of Christ. The coming of the Holy Spirit fulfils what Jesus promised at the time of his ascension, and all these are wrapped up with the Fatherhood of God in the doctrine of the Trinity. We understand God to be three in one, and one in three.

Trinity shows us the mystery, the power and the beauty of the triune God. We acknowledge that all three persons of the Trinity exist together in all eternity.

PENTECOST

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John 15:26 - 16:-15 | Acts 2:1-21

As we begin this mini-series together, pray that God would open you up to new things from His Spirit.

Introduction

Share with the group what has shaped your attitude to the Holy Spirit over the years you have been a Christian. Has your attitude changed over those years?

Read John 15:26 – 16:15

1. Why do you think Jesus calls the Holy Spirit an 'advocate'?
The Gk word is '*parakletos*'. What can you find out about the meaning of that word?¹
2. What might have been some of the misgivings of the disciples when they heard that Jesus was leaving?
3. How does the Holy Spirit convict us about sin, righteousness and judgement?
Do you experience this in your life?

¹ parakletos – Definition – one who acts on another's behalf as a helper, legal advocate, advisor or intermediary. This term only occurs in the New Testament and is only associated with the writings of the Apostle John. Can be found in John 14:16-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7 and in 1 John 2:1

Read Acts 2:1-21

4. What words, phrases, images, or descriptions about Pentecost raise questions for you, encourage you, or confuse you?
5. How did the disciples experience the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost?
6. What did they do after they they experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? *[read to the end of the chapter]*

Read Genesis 11:1-9

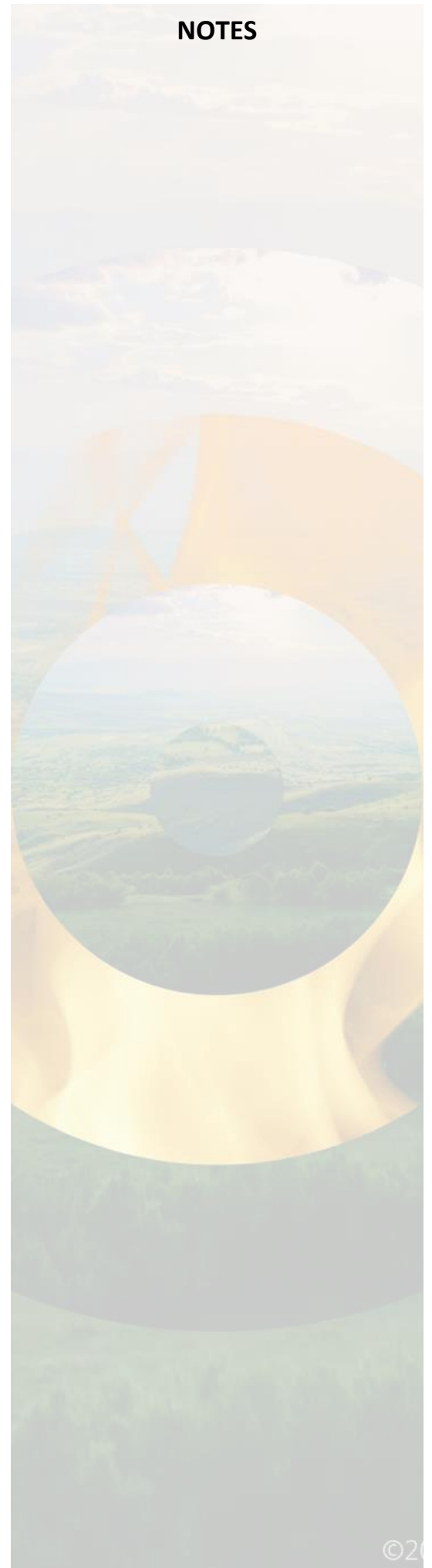
7. What were the language and community like before the tower was built?
8. What comparisons do you see between the pattern of the Pentecost story and the pattern of the Tower of Babel story?
Why do you think this is important?

Response and Prayer

Do you sense that God is leading you to respond to anything specific after listening to the sermon, reading the passages again and by sharing in this discussion?

Pray together as a group asking for God to fill each person with the Holy Spirit in a new way.

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TRINITY

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Introduction

To prepare for this week, why not take some time out and read the Athanasian Creed -

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109017/Athanasian-Creed.pdf>

Share around the group some thoughts on why the doctrine of the Trinity is important.

Read the following passages:

Luke 1:35; Mark 1:10; Matthew 28:19; Acts 22:32-33; Acts 5:30-32; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:17; Ephesians 3:14-21

1. These passages describe God as Trinity in various ways. Which one is the most helpful to you for understanding God as Trinity?
2. What are some good analogies for understanding the Trinity?
Consider how these might also be inadequate.
3. Discuss. "Isn't 'one God in three persons' just a flat out contradiction?"
4. What were some of the key landmarks in church history regarding the Trinity? *[you might like to research the first Council of Nicaea in AD325; and/or the Cappadocians at Constantinople in AD381]*

The doctrine of the Trinity relies mainly on the New Testament, but certain groundwork is implicit in the Old Testament.

- 5. God as **One** – Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; 46:9
God as **Father** – Exodus 4:22; Deut 32:6, 18-19;
2 Sam 7:14; Psalm 2:7; Jeremiah 31:9
God as **Word** and **Wisdom** – Psalm 33:8-9;
Job 28:20-28; Proverbs 2:1-6, 8:1-11
God as **Spirit** – Genesis 1:1-2; Numbers 11:16-
17,24-25; Ezekiel 2:1-3; Isaiah 63:11-13

6. **Read Isaiah 6:1-8**

How does this passage expand and enlarge your vision of God?

How does knowing God as Trinity help us to understand Him?

Response and Prayer

Do you sense that God is leading you to respond to anything specific after listening to the sermon, reading the passages again and by sharing in this discussion?

Pray for each other to be growing in our understanding of God as Trinity.

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