

# **THE TRIUNE GOD**

**THE DIVINE NATURE OF GOD**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### What are some of God's attributes?

- Eternal
- Creator
  - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 (NKJV).
  - God is within Himself a community in relationship; a Trinity.
  - "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1:26 (NKJV).
  - The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, but its concept is progressively revealed within the Bible.
- God is:
  - Omniscient: All-Knowing.
  - Omnipresent: Ever-Present.
  - Omnipotent: All-Powerful.

### What does it mean for God to be Triune?

- He is one God, having three distinct parts that function in perfect unity.
- The Father
  - The One through whom the Son and Holy Spirit are sent.
- The Son: Jesus
  - Eternally with God from the beginning.
  - The Word made flesh.
  - Born of a virgin.
  - Lived a perfect, sinless life.
  - Died on the cross for the sins of the world, to redeem the world back to God.
  - Was raised to life three days later, overcoming sin and the grave.
    - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)
  - Sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf.
- The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of God.
  - Was present from the beginning
  - Isn't a force or an energy; it is the Lord.
  - "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17).
  - Has emotions, can be grieved, and releases joy.
  - The third member of the trinity.

One God, three distinct persons, living in eternal community together fulfilling the divine mysteries of the Godhead that we are recipients of.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Definition of Trinity: The Christian Godhead as one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God is triune: One God having 3 distinct parts that function in perfect unity.

### List them:

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Read: John 14:10, John 14:16, 1 Corinthians 8:6

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Read: John 1:1-5, John 1:14, John 3:16, John 14:6, Hebrews 5:9, 1 John 4:14

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Read: Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30, John 14:16-17, John 14:26

### Are there any other Gods?

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Read: Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, Isaiah 44:6, Isaiah 45:22, 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 Cor. 8:6, Jude 1:25

### How do I interact with this One True God?

- 1.** Recognize Him for His many attributes: Eternal God, Creator, All-Knowing, Ever-Present, All-Powerful, Loving Father, Redeeming God, Savior Jesus, Helper, Comforter, Guide, etc. Get to know more about God by reading your Bible—it's there that He reveals Himself to us. You may want to start with our Bible Reading Plan on the Foundations of Faith main page.
- 2.** Praise Him for Who He is: Acclaim Him and thank Him that He is everything we need! Learn more about worship in Foundations of Faith, Part 7.
- 3.** Pray to Him: Simply talk to God. Share your thoughts, feelings, troubles, concerns, and needs. Know that He loves you, and is a relational God who loves when you spend time with Him. Learn more about prayer in Foundations of Faith, Part 6.
- 4.** Attend weekly church services and join a Group to further your knowledge of God and strengthen your relationship with Him. To get connected, visit [www.radiant.church/groups](http://www.radiant.church/groups)

Prayer: Father, I thank You for Your love for me and that You are continuously revealing Yourself to me. Help me to grow in my understanding and know You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **SALVATION**

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **What does it mean to be saved?**

- Reconciled and rescued!
  - Taking broken things and redeeming them to their original place and position.

### **What are we being saved from?**

- From the beginning, mankind was created very good:
  - Designed to live forever.
  - Created to live in the presence of God and in relationship with God.
- We have been born into a world of sin through Adam and Eve.
  - Because of human rebellion toward God's design, mankind fell into a sin that originated in the human heart.

### **Why do we need salvation?**

- We are born sinful and self-serving. The wages of sin are death and leave us destined for hell.

### **The love of God didn't leave us there: God's love rescues us!**

- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)
  - Jesus came without sin, went to the cross, bore on his body the penalty for our sins and the sins of the world all because of God's love.
  - Jesus did it to save us from ourselves, our sin, hell, and the judgment we deserve.
  - "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17 (NKJV)
  - When Jesus died, He said: "It is finished," meaning the bill has been paid.

### **Can everyone be saved?**

- No matter how sinful we are, we can all be rescued and brought back to our original standing with God through Jesus.

### **What can we do to be saved?**

- It's not by our best efforts, but by the grace and through receiving the free gift of God offered through Jesus Christ.

### **What happens when we are saved?**

- When we receive this gift of salvation, our sins are completely forgiven, the Holy Spirit takes residence in our heart and gives us a new heart.
- We are reconciled with God: no longer slaves destined for hell, our names are now written in the Lamb's book of life. Heaven is our home, and we will no longer die spiritually, although we die physically.

**In all of this, we see the grace and goodness of God not to leave us in a state of shattered sin, but to reconcile us back to His original intentions—for us to live in His presence forever and be in perfect relationship with Him. That's what it means for you and me to be saved!**

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Definition of Salvation: The saving of your soul from sin and its consequences.

Am I sinful? Read: Romans 3:23.

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What are the consequences of my sin? Read: Romans 6:23.

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Who, out of God's great love for me, was sent to save me from my sin? Read: John 3:16, Acts 4:12, and John 14:6.

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What can I do to be saved? Read: Ephesians 2: 8-9, Romans 10: 9-10, and Acts 2:21.

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### **How can I be sure I am saved?**

- 1.** God doesn't force this free gift of salvation or eternal destination of heaven on you, but gives you an option to receive it. Simply choose it.
- 2.** You have to acknowledge your sinful nature, repent (express regret and turn away from) your sin, place your belief in the Lord Jesus and His finished work on the cross, and surrender to Him as your Lord and Savior.
- 3.** Salvation happens the moment someone receives Jesus into their life! The promise of eternal life with God and a heaven-bound future is found in your salvation—no matter how bad your past was, Jesus has wiped your slate clean!

Have you prayed a prayer to receive Jesus in your heart? If not, there's no better time than now. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "...Today is the day of salvation." Pray the prayer below, believing it in your heart.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I recognize that I am a sinner and I cannot save myself. My sin has separated me from You. But, today, I put my trust and faith in Jesus. I believe that He died on the cross, and rose again in victory. In doing so, He bore my sins & shame and bought my salvation back to You. Thank you for loving me and for saving me! I turn my back on sin and turn my gaze onto You. Help me to grow in my understanding and know You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Congratulations! You are a child of God and heaven is your new home!**

## **What's Next?**

- 1.** We encourage you to connect with a local church to be cared for and equipped! Attend weekly services and join in ways they can help you grow.
- 2.** Learn more about Baptism in Foundations of Faith, Part 3 and consider Baptism as your next step!
- 3.** Connect with others who can help in your journey! To learn how to get connected, visit: [www.radiant.church/groups](http://www.radiant.church/groups)
- 4.** Let God reveal Himself to you more by reading your Bible. You may want to start with our Bible Reading Plan on the Foundations of Faith main page.
- 5.** Pray: Simply talk to God. Share your thoughts, feelings, troubles, concerns and needs. Know that He loves you, and is a relational God who loves when you spend time with Him. Learn more about prayer in Foundations of Faith, Part 6.

# **WATER BAPTISM**

**A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF  
A PERSONAL FAITH**



## TEACHING NOTES

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### **Why should we be baptized?**

- Baptism is a public declaration of a personal faith we have come to in Jesus Christ.
- It is an act of obedience.
- Jesus was Himself baptized.
  - He set a pattern for us on how we should live and instructed us, "Follow Me."
  - Part of following Jesus is following His example.

### **What does the word baptism mean?**

- *Baptizo*: to completely submerge, saturate, or overwhelm.
- Baptism is to be completely submerged and immersed in the water; it's a prophetic act of death, burial, and resurrection to new life!
- The waters of baptism represent a burial of our sin; coming out of the water represents new life.

### **What are we declaring by baptism?**

- By being baptized, we are telling the world around us and the Christian community that we are a new creation.

### **Why should I be baptized?**

- Baptism is something Jesus commanded all believers to do.
  - "...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)
- When we are baptized, we are walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- Baptism is an outward declaration that we have been saved.
- Baptism changes our hearts because we've obeyed God and faithfully walked in Jesus' footsteps.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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What is Baptism: The public declaration of your faith and new life in Christ; identifying with His death, burial, and resurrection to new life.

Jesus is my model. Was He baptized? Read Matthew: 3:13-17, Mark 1:9, and Luke 3:21.

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How does baptism help me identify with Christ? Read: Romans: 6:4.

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Is Baptism something Jesus instructed me to do? Read: Matthew 28:19, and Acts 2:41.

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If you are a believer and haven't already been baptized, we encourage you to take that next step and be baptized!

**Visit [www.radiant.church](http://www.radiant.church) to sign up for an upcoming Baptism Weekend.**

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for providing Jesus as my pattern for life. Help me to obediently follow wherever He says, "Follow Me." Thank You for continuing to reveal Your plans and next steps in my walk of faith. I ask You to give me the courage to follow wherever You are leading me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **COMMUNION**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **Why is Communion significant?**

- On the last night, Jesus took bread & wine and He instituted a new ordinance for the church.
  - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’” Matthew 26:26-28 (NKJV)
- This was just before Jesus endured the cross where His body was truly broken and His blood was truly shed for our sins.
- For over 2000 years, the church has taken Communion together to remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

### **What are the elements of Communion?**

- The Bread:
  - When we take it, we are reminded of the price paid for our sins and the healing of our body, soul, and spirit.
  - “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)
- The Cup (juice/wine):
  - Remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and the New Covenant.

### **Why does the church offer Communion?**

- A unifying sacrament where we remember our salvation was bought by Jesus alone.
- It is the centerpiece of our Christian faith.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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What is Communion: An important tradition in the Christian Faith. It is an act of worship and remembrance instated by Jesus.

What is the first element in Communion, and why is it significant to me? Read: Luke 22: 19-20, and Isaiah 53:5.

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What is the second element in Communion, and what is the importance? Read: Matthew 26:26-28.

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When did Jesus perform the first communion? And, why is that timing noteworthy? Read: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25.

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When taking Communion, prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to share with you how significant and important it truly is. Take it prayerfully, in an honoring manner, and as an act of worship. Let the significance of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection renew your faith day by day.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I thank You for taking my place and enduring the cross on my behalf. Help me to recognize that Your suffering purchased my freedom, healing, salvation, and restoration back to God. Jesus, I thank You for the New Covenant and the new life I have in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **THE BIBLE**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

# TEACHING NOTES

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## Who wrote the Bible and what does it contain?

- All scripture is breathed out by God readies us for every good work.
  - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- The Bible contains 66 books, 2 Testaments (Old Testament & New Testament), over 40 authors, 3 languages, and was written over the course of 1,800 years.
- Penned by prophets, priests, apostles, disciples, and eyewitnesses. The Bible is God-breathed, meaning God spoke it to holy men who recorded it and passed it down. It was written as a revelation from the heart of God to men so we can know who God is, His desires, and His wishes.
- It contains prophesy, poetry, history, stories, promises, and doctrine.
- It also records flawed men and women, their mistakes, and the mercy of God dealing with flawed human beings.
- The ultimate apex of the Bible: the revelation of the living word, Jesus Christ—who we read about in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

## How does the Bible fit into our world?

- The Bible is the only book that when you read it -- it reads you!
- Given to humanity as a gift, it gives us what we need to be spiritually strengthened.
- Archaeologists have tried to disprove the Bible for years, but every archaeological discovery has been consistent with the Word of God.
- Science does not contradict the Bible; science and physics affirm it.
- Those changed by the message of the Bible affirm it, it’s spiritual truth and reality.

## How should I approach the Bible?

- Read it.
  - Begin in the book of John.
  - Find a reading program that works for you. You may want to consider a plan for New Believers, the YouVersion Bible App, or audio versions.
    - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
    - “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)
- Memorize It.
  - “Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:111 (NKJV)
- Study It.
  - Attend weekly church services.
  - Get connected with a Radiant Group by visiting [www.radiant.church/groups](http://www.radiant.church/groups)
  - “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21 (NKJV)

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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What is the Bible: The inspired Word of God.

Who inspired/breathed the Bible? Read: 2 Timothy 3:16.

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Why do I have the Bible? Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

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Is the Bible still relevant to me today? Read: Hebrews 4:12, and Matthew 24:35.

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Why is the Bible important for me to read? Read: Romans 12:2, John 8:31-32, Romans 10:17, Ephesians 6:10, and James 1:22.

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### **How do I read my Bible?**

- 1.** Get someplace quiet where you can focus on what you're reading.
- 2.** Find a plan. You may want to start with our Bible Reading Plan on the Foundations of Faith main page.
- 3.** Begin by praying that God would reveal Himself to you, and fill you with understanding as you read.
- 4.** Let God's Word change you and the way you think.
- 5.** Journal about what you've read and what it means to you.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for loving me and revealing Yourself to me through the Bible. Help ignite a hunger in me to know You more. I pray that as I open Your Word, You reveal Yourself to me in a greater way. Change my thoughts as I align them with Yours. Thank you for continuously pursuing me. Help me to pursue You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# **PRAYER**

**COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### What is prayer?

- In it's simplest form, prayer means to communicate with God; to talk with Him.
- Prayer is not a monologue, but a dialogue where God speaks to us as much as we speak to Him.

### What do I have to pray to be effective?

- We often feel we need to be eloquent and have the Bible memorized to present our cases just right. But, that misses the point of prayer.
  - "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words." Matthew 6:5-7 (NJKV)
  - Don't pretend to be something you're not. Be yourself and speak authentically from your heart with your Father.

### How can I create better habits of prayer?

- Find a secret place: determine a time and place, and schedule it!
- Pray to the Father in Jesus' name. Have an open & honest dialogue, sharing with the Father the desires of your heart, confessing your sins, and inviting God to speak to you.

### What was the 'Jesus' Pattern' for prayer?

- The Lord's Prayer:
  - *Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name:* Connect with God relationally and worship Him.
  - *Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:* Asking for God's will to be done in our life and in our world.
  - *Give us today our daily bread:* Petition Him and ask for our needs.
  - *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us:* Ask forgiveness.
  - *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one:* Asking for God's protection.
  - *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever:* Remember God is all powerful.

### What are the biggest keys to prayer?

- Go into your secret place and pray to the Father who is already there. Prayer isn't about conjuring up the Father to listen, but about us entering into a space and mind frame in which He is already waiting for us.
- We're not just praying to God, but to a FATHER. This suggests relationship and an intimacy.
- God wants to meet your needs more than you want Him to. He's a good Father -- in that, He protects, provides, and affirms identity.

### **What should I avoid in prayer?**

- We mess up prayer when we place our own expectations upon ourselves and prayer; simply meet with God, bring the Word of God, present our needs, confess our sins and have a hearing ear to hear the things God has to say over our lives.

Your challenge: Find a time & place to meet with God, go there, read His Word, share your pain/concerns/sins, read scriptures, ask Him for your needs, listen to Him and watch how He sets your future on a flourishing course with God.

### **MAKE IT YOUR OWN**

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Definition of Prayer: To dialogue with God. To address Him with adoration, confession, supplication, or thanksgiving; to intercede.

Does God hear my prayers? Read: Psalm 116:1-2, Psalm 145:18, 1 John 5:14, 1 Peter 3:12, 1 Peter 5:7, Hebrews 4:16, and Jeremiah 29:12.

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Do my prayers need to be prepared or perfected to be effective? Read: Romans 8:26.

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Does God answer my prayers? Read: Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:22, John 16:23-24, Ephesians 3:20, James 5:16, and 1 John 5:14.

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It's important to remember that, as a child of God, you have full access to Him. Just as important, He's not listening begrudgingly -- rather, He is actually there eagerly waiting to hear from you! So, set a time and place to meet with Him, because He's expecting you!

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I'm thankful that You are near and desire to hear my prayers. Help me grow in being open as I share my thoughts, needs, pains, and concerns with You more frequently. Help me develop a greater sensitivity to Your voice as we meet and when You speak Your love, affections, and identity over me. Grow a greater hunger in me for prayer and spending time in Your presence.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **WORSHIP**

**EXPRESSING GOD'S WORTH**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **What is worship?**

- Worship means to ascribe worth or value; to pour out our affections and love upon God. It involves expressing our love, adoration, gratitude, and thankfulness to God.

### **Why does worship look differently in different churches?**

- There are many expressions of worship, and it can look differently at different churches. There are many forms, styles and traditions involved in worship.

### **What is important to know about worship?**

- The most important factor in worship is God and realizing His preferences. God is searching for something:
  - “True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” John 4:23 (ESV)
  - God is searching, looking, and longing.
  - While we’re searching for our preferences, He’s searching for those who worship Him the way He wants to be worshiped—from the heart!

### **What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?**

- Worshiping from the spirit means we are worshiping from the core, the depths of who we are--the depths of our soul, where gratitude, passion, and affection flow from.
- Worshiping in truth means to worship based on the truth of God’s Word and what we know about Him.
- Spirit and truth means to worship Him with our mind and our heart.
- The Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV). We should love and worship Him with all that we are!

### **What are the many ways we can worship God?**

- Through: songs/singing, prayers, lifting our hands, bowing down or kneeling, dancing, and through tears/crying.

### **It’s our design:**

- As human beings, God has hard-wired into our genetic code to be worshipers.
- Every culture worships because God designed worship into our human makeup.
- We worship in spirit and in truth.

Challenge yourself in how you worship God. Step forward and worship to the point of your discomfort. You were created to be a worshiper! You worship a God who loves you and has given so much to redeem you back to Himself.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Definition of Worship: To regard God with great extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.

Does God have preferences in worship? Read: John 4:23.

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What does it mean to worship God with all that I am? Read: Psalm 47:1, Psalm 63:4, Psalm 95:6-7, Psalm 96:1, Psalm 96:4, Psalm 134:2, Psalm 149:3, 1 Chronicles 16:23-31, 1 Chronicles 29:11, Matthew 22:37, and John 4:24.

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Was I created to be a worshiper? Read: Psalm 150:6, Isaiah 25:1, Psalm 103:1, and Psalm 71:8.

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### **How can I best engage God in worship?**

- 1.** Make worship a lifestyle -- engaging in both private (personal) and corporate (church) worship settings.
- 2.** Life can get hurried and busy, so prepare your heart ahead of time. Take a moment to pray and ready yourself for worship.
- 3.** Ask God to help you focus on Him alone and minimize distractions.
- 4.** Let your thoughts dwell on God's greatness, rather than your current struggles.
- 5.** Engage God with all that you are, even if it's outside of your comfort zone. Re-frame your personal preferences to align with His.

God has everything, but He is still seeking one thing: your fully engaged, spirit and truth, worship. So, don't hold anything back!

### **Prayer:**

Lord, You are worthy of my worship, adoration, and praise. Help me to grow in my ability to worship You greater and make worshiping You a lifestyle. I come alive in Your presence. Thank You for revealing Your preferences to me, God--it is my aim to please You and offer the worship You desire. You are worthy! In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS**

**GROWING TOWARD GOD TOGETHER**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **Our society is more disconnected than ever:**

- Today, our culture values independence and individualism.
- We are in one of the most well-connected, yet loneliest generations.

### **Connectivity has always been our design:**

- Community was a core value in the early church and an expression of what it meant to follow Jesus. From the very beginning, believers were gathering in their homes and gathering in community.
  - “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 (ESV)
- All are members of the body of Christ, none of us is the body by ourselves. Together we make up the body and need one another.
  - “The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)
- Friendship is a vital value of the Christian faith.
  - Our relationships closest to us determine if we are strong in our faith, pulled off course, or are lonely and isolated.
  - “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
  - “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)
  - “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.” Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)
  - “Do not be deceived: ‘bad company ruins good morals.’” Proverbs 15:33 (ESV)
  - If you want to see where you will be in 5 years, show me your closest friendships.

### **We desperately need strong Christian relationships that:**

- Provoke us to good works.
- Make us laugh & have fun.
- Serve God alongside others.
- Raise families together.

### **Our God is in community (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) and wants us to live the same.**

How can we build Christian community?

1. Join a small group at your church.
2. Find a place to serve in your church.
3. Open up your heart and invite others into your life!

**Make space for spiritual drafting in your life:** We draft off one another and are able to go farther & faster, and be stronger with more longevity when we do it together rather than on our own.

**Your Challenge:** Take a practical step to grow community. Your life will be impacted TODAY, and you’ll be a stronger believer because of it.



## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Definition of Community: fellowship with others having common attitudes, interests, and goals.

Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future: Our relationships shape us. Like it or not, you become like the people who are closest to you.

Can my close relationships really hold me back? Read: Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 12:26, and 1 Corinthians 15:33.

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How can Christian relationships help me succeed? Read: Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24-25, and Matthew 18:20.

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### **Pastor Lee mentioned the importance of finding Christian community. How can I find that at Radiant?**

1. Attend weekly services and get to know more people!
2. Join a Group where you can grow in relationship with others.
3. Find a place to serve at church, and get to know others on your team.
4. Open up your heart and invite others into your life. Maybe the invitation begins with you!

**Challenge:** Take the next step. It may include stepping out of your comfort zone a bit, but the results of Christian community will be far more rewarding than you can imagine!

### **Prayer:**

Father, thank You for revealing the way relationships have an impact on me. Help strengthen me to be a strong positive influence on those around me. I also ask that You continue to bring new friendships into my life that will strengthen me, grow me, and position me to walk in all that You hold for my life. Give me the boldness to step out where You are calling me to! In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **GENEROSITY**

**WHY GOD WANTS US TO BE GENEROUS**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **What is God talking about when He calls us to be generous?**

- Generosity starts in our heart and isn't just about finances: It's about our time, our talents, and our treasures.
- He is talking about matters of the heart, not matters of the hand.

### **How is God generous with us?**

- "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (ESV)
- God is exceedingly and extravagantly generous with His grace, kindness, provision, and His gifts.
- Because we want to become like the God we worship, we need to realize that He wants us to be generous just like He is generous to us.

### **How can we be generous with all that we have?**

- With our time:
  - We all get 24 hours each day on this planet. We can use it to sow generously into Kingdom things.
  - We can mentor others with our time; investing our time and talents into others' lives for the gospel.
- With our talents:
  - No matter your design and how you're gifted (i.e. - organizational, administrative, creative, etc.), God has given you talents and gifts.
  - If you use those talents for only earthly things, your reward will only be in the earthly realm; temporal.
- With our treasures:
  - When we work, we get a paycheck. We exchange our time at our job(s) for a paycheck where we can buy items, most of which are temporal in nature.
  - We can use our finances generously by giving into Kingdom-building endeavors around the world (i.e. - help preach the gospel around the world, building up the local church, caring for the poor/overlooked/marginalized in our communities).
  - When we choose to be like God and invest our time, talent & treasure into things that are eternal (i.e. - people, kingdom-building aspects, endeavors, etc.) we're taking things that are temporal, translating them, and exchanging the currency of this world for eternal currency and reward.
    - Jesus said it like this: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." Matthew 6:19 (NASB)

**There is a reward awaiting us in the age to come as a result of how we invest our time, talents, and treasures into our world now.**

## **What does the Bible say about generosity?**

- “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV)

- How can we give cheerfully? We know it’s bringing joy to the heart of God, impacting the lives of others, going into our future as a harvest on top of our heavenly reward.

- Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

- You can’t serve both God & money--you’ll hate one and love the other.

- Jesus said you can’t have two masters.

- The only thing that Jesus placed on the same scale of God as our master was money as our master.

- Money is a tool that if we have enough of, we can do just about anything.

- Money also gets into our heart & soul, and convinces us we don’t need God.

- Money represents control.

## **Why does God ask us to give?**

- 1.** It changes other people’s lives.

- 2.** It changes our lives: We realize God is in control and we become stewards of what He has put into our lives. You are a steward; a manager. God has entrusted you with talents, time, resources, and money.

## **What are you going to with what God has entrusted to you?**

- Are you going to sow it into good soil to bring a Kingdom harvest?

- Are you going to invest it into the things of this world and let it be depleted of its eternal impact?

**Your Challenge:** submit these things God has given to you under the lordship of Jesus and watch that as you sow, you will continuously reap the goodness, favor, blessing, and increase from God Himself.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Definition of Generosity: The act of being very kind, generous, or open-handed.

How has God been generous with me? Read: John 3:16, and 1 John 3:16-18.

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Why does God want me to be generous? Read: Matthew 6:21, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 10:8, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, Malachi 3:10-12, and 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

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What are the 3 areas I can be generous in? Read: Ephesians 5:15-16, 1 Peter 4:10, Exodus 35:10, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 13:16, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, and Psalm 24:1.

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How does God want me to give? Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

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### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for Your extreme generosity with me. Thank You for loving me so much that You gave Your son, Jesus, to purchase my freedom. Help me reach new degrees of generosity in my life as I use the gifts and resources You gave me to bring an eternal Kingdom impact. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with Your cause in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **What's Next?**

- 1.** Consider joining a serving team at your church and give of your time & talents. This will give you an opportunity to grow in your giftings, but also create space for the message of Jesus to reach others. Join Team Radiant here: [www.radiant.church/teamradiant](http://www.radiant.church/teamradiant)
- 2.** Begin financially partnering with your church so you can use your treasures to bring a lasting eternal impact. You may not feel that your gift alone can make a difference, but joining your gifts with others' gifts can change the world. See opportunities for local and global missions here: [www.radiant.church/kingdombuilders](http://www.radiant.church/kingdombuilders)

**BAPTISM  
OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT**

**BEING BORN AGAIN**

## TEACHING NOTES

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### **What is the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life?**

- When you're born again, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, regenerates us, and gives us new life, and seals us as children of God.
- The Holy Spirit also convicts us, leads us, and guides us into all truth as believers.
- The Holy Spirit is a person.

### **What did Jesus tell us about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

- Jesus said the Holy Spirit would empower all believers.
  - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."  
Acts 1:8 (ESV)

### **When did we first see a Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible?**

- In the book of Acts, we learn that the Spirit came like a rushing wind, and the Holy Spirit filled all of the 120 gathered; they began to speak in tongues.
- Thousands gathered around because they saw the disciples prophesying, speaking in tongues, and preaching.
  - Peter, who just 40 days earlier denied Jesus, stepped up and preached the best sermon known to man.
  - Peter said, "These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!"  
Acts 2:15 (NIV)
  - This was a work of the infilling/baptism of Holy Spirit: It is the empowerment promised to every believer.
- This is different than the Spirit indwelling you, but coming upon you in power and giving an anointing so that you, like the disciples, can be His witness.

### **Who can be Baptized with the Holy Spirit?**

- "This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." Acts 2:39 (NLT)
  - Not for the few in the early church—but for all who God calls to Himself.
  - It is to empower, fill, and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit as your overflow so that you are fully prepared with power for ministry.

### **Are there more instances of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible?**

- We find this in the book of Acts chapter 9, where it depicts Paul's conversion: believers first believed, were baptized, and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

### **What are some expressions of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

- Speaking in tongues
  - Praying in a heavenly language the Father gives you.

### **Who can be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

- Available for all believers.
- It is a promise for you.
- “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.”  
Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)
- Like water baptism, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an immersion into the dynamic, supernatural life of the Spirit, and a release of the gifts of the Spirit.
  - We’re called to continuous filling (over and over).

### **How can I receive the Holy Spirit?**

- If you have not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit yet, study the scriptures and pray that He fills you, just like He filled the disciples with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- As Christians, we need all the power we can get of the Holy Spirit -- to walk supernaturally in the dynamics of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating the words and the power of the gospel.
- This is a gift for you. It is for everyone, and you can have it if you simply ask Jesus to Baptize you in the Holy Spirit.



## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

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Baptism of the Holy Spirit: When the Holy Spirit comes upon believers to anoint and equip them with power to be His witness.

Is Baptism of the Holy Spirit different than water baptism? Read: Acts 1:5.

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Why does God give us a Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Read: Acts 1:8, Luke 24:29, Mark 16:20, Acts 2:43, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Corinthians 14:3, and 1 Corinthians 14:12.

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What are some gifts of the Holy Spirit? Read: Acts 1:8, and 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

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Can I be Baptized in the Holy Spirit? Read: Acts 2:17-21, Luke 11:11-13, and 1 Corinthians 12:31.

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### **When you first believed, you received the seal of the Holy Spirit living in you in full measure.**

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer, regenerates us, gives us new life, and seals us as children of God. The Holy Spirit also convicts us, leads us, and guides us into all truth as believers. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is completely separate from the indwelling Spirit all believers have, but a subsequent act where the Holy Spirit comes upon you to fill you with power. It isn't something God forces on us, but something we are all offered and can ask Him for. If you want all God has for you, simply ask for it!

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for Your presence in my life and for the seal of the Holy Spirit. I'm requesting all that You have for me. Fill me with a Baptism of Your Holy Spirit and pour out all of the gifts You have for me. I confess an openness and a desire for all of the spiritual gifts and ask that You guide me in using them to fulfill Your divine purposes in power. Thank you for the privilege to partner with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **What's Next?**

1. Step forward for prayer and ask someone to pray with you for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. The gifts of the Spirit aren't for us, but to be used by us for others. Put your new spiritual gifts to us by serving at church! Visit: [www.radiant.church/teamradiant](http://www.radiant.church/teamradiant)