

Growing Deeper
Guideposts – Part Two

Week Four - Trinity
John 14:15-31

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. What do you think is the most important attribute of our God? What adjective would you use to describe Him?
2. If you had asked a Jew this question, he or she would have almost inevitably pointed to Deuteronomy 6:4. Turn to this passage and read it. What does it list as God's most important attribute?
3. How is this different from the kind of answer most Christians would give?
4. Now read John 16:12-15 and 17:1-5. How would Jesus' words sound to a Jew who embraced Deuteronomy 6:4?
5. How would you explain to a Jewish person why our "Trinity" of God is the same as their "God is One" God?
6. How important is the concept of the Trinity to our faith? Could someone not believe in this understanding of God and still be a Christian? Explain your answer.
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, use these words as your prayer: "God, we live in a world that values power and performance. And God, You are the most powerful. But your ways are not like our ways. Above all else, you are loving. It is so easy for me to lose sight of that. Please help me to put relationships first and to love others because You love me. Amen."

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. Our God is a God of Love and a God of Power. Which of these two traits would you say is more essential to who God is? Why?
9. Timothy Keller has this to say about the triune nature of God: "If God is unipersonal, then until God created other beings there was no love, since love is something that one person has for another. This means that a unipersonal God [would have] power, sovereignty, and greatness from all eternity, but not love. Love then is not of the essence of God, nor is it at the heart of the universe. Power is primary." What key difference does it make about God that He is a multi-personal trinity?
10. Now read John 14:15-31. What words does Jesus use to describe the relationships between the Father, the Spirit and Jesus himself?

11. If God already had a loving relationship within himself (the three persons), why then did He need to make human beings?
12. The early American preacher Jonathan Edwards gave this answer to the question: “Why would such an infinitely good, perfect, and eternal being create? The ultimate reason that God creates is not to remedy some lack in God, but to extend that perfect internal communication of the triune God’s goodness and love.” Did God make us in order to have power over us or in order to love us?
13. How might this understanding change your own attitude toward your relationship with God?
14. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, use these words as your prayer: “God, there are times when I lose sight of how much You love me. I forget that You didn't create me just to follow a list of rules, but to enjoy a relationship with You. You don't want merely my obedience, You want my heart. Thank you for gently reminding me every day of how You love me. Amen. “

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. God continues to reveal Himself to us in specific ways. As you think about God the Father, what things do you know about Him?
16. The Washington Post asked a group of children to share what they know about God. You can watch the short clip here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm0we7FgM7U> How well do you think these children know God the Father?
17. Let’s get to know the Father as He reveals Himself to us in his Word. How, personally, was He involved in your birth? (See Psalm 139:13 and Jeremiah 1:5)
18. What does God do take care of us? (See Psalm 145:15-16 and 1 Peter 5:7)
19. Why does God take care of us? (See Genesis 32:10 and Psalm 103:13)
20. How can we respond to the love of God our Father? (See Psalm 118:1 and Genesis 2:15)
21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, using these words as your prayer: “God, You are the god of details. You can be found in all of the details of our lives. Sometimes we are tempted to believe that You don't care about the small things, but You care about everything! Thank You for caring for me so much. When I grasp how intimately You know and care for me, it fills me with love to share with others. Amen.”

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

22. Let's talk about the second person of the Trinity: Jesus. Read Isaiah 53:4-5. Why was it worth it to God to become a man who would be tortured and killed?

23. Which means more to you personally: God, the Father, who loved you enough to create you or God, the Son, who loved you enough to rescue you? Explain your answer.

24. Now read John 1:29 and Hebrews 2:14-17. From what did Christ's sacrifice rescue us?

25. In what ways do these three things no longer have power over you?

26. Now read Matthew 25:31-32. To what future work of Christ do we look forward?

27. Why can you be confident to stand before Christ when He returns?

28. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, using these words as your prayer: "God, You are not only our father but also our rescuer. You would stop at nothing to rescue me from my sin. Thank You so much for sending Jesus to model mercy and love in action. Thank You for taking away the barrier in our relationship when you sent Jesus to the cross. And thank You for empowering me to share this good news with the world around me. Amen."

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

29. What role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in your life?

30. Think back on the moment when you became a believer or first took your faith seriously. Was it a more intellectual or emotional choice?

31. Was it really your choice at all? Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. What does it take to understand God's truths or to accept God?

32. Which is more accurate to say: God chose you or you chose God?

33. Which person of the Trinity actively changed your heart so that you could begin to understand and accept God?

34. Look at one important promise of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:9. What power is now available to you, each and every

moment of every day? What difference can that make in your life?

35. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, using these words as your prayer: “God, it is amazing to think that the very same spirit that lived in Jesus now lives and works in me! You are with me every moment of the day, ready to give me peace, patience, joy, and all of the fruits of the Spirit. Help me to lean on You in times of trouble, knowing that You are always ready to help. Amen.”