








## Small Group/ Reflection Notes

16-03-2025		Trinity	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What <i>three</i> things are you grateful for this week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you generally read the small print, or do you just click 'accept'? <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have to understand something for it exist? <input type="checkbox"/> What part does <i>mystery</i> play in our spirituality? How do you live with/ embrace <i>mystery</i> ? Why do 'evangelicals' sometimes struggle with <i>mystery</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> If God is simultaneously <i>both</i> One (Unity) <i>and</i> three Persons (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) – co-existent, co-eternal – why does the popular Trinity illustration of ice > water > steam not work? Can <i>any</i> explanation/ illustration ever work? <input type="checkbox"/> “ <i>The Trinity is like a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.</i> ” <input type="checkbox"/> “ <i>Anyone who thinks they have fully understood the Trinity almost certainly hasn't.</i> ” <input type="checkbox"/> Why is the Trinity so foundational to Christian belief and experience? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it matter that the word 'Trinity' is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible? What other key terms are also not mentioned in the Bible but are clearly important Christian principles/ practices?		
 Read	<a href="#"><b>Matthew 28:16-20</b></a>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> How does God self-refer in these passages: <a href="#">Genesis 1:26</a> ; <a href="#">Genesis 3:22</a> ; <a href="#">Genesis 11:7</a> ; <a href="#">Genesis 18:1-22</a> ; <a href="#">Isaiah 6:8</a> ? What, if anything, does this say about respecting pronouns? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Deuteronomy 6:4</a> : What were the Israelites brought up to believe? Why – then and now – was this so radical? Why can there be <i>only</i> one God? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Matthew 28:17</a> : Why would the disciples have been so conflicted by their instinctive worship of Jesus? If it was going against everything they'd been brought up to believe/ do, why did they do it anyway? What had they realised? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Matthew 3:17-18</a> : At the start of Jesus' public ministry, how did Trinity God feature at His baptism? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Matthew 28:18-20</a> : How, by the end of His earthly ministry, was Jesus so clear/ unambiguous about Trinity God? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Genesis 1:1-2</a> & <a href="#">John 1:1-3</a> : What does Creation tell us about the Trinity? What assurance can this bring to us when we face impossible or overwhelming circumstances? <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Hebrews 9:14</a> : How was the Trinity involved in re-creation? What assurance can this bring to us when we feel abandoned/ desolate?		

 Go further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Why do Christians refer to God as <i>Father</i>? e.g. <a href="#">Mark 14:36</a>; <a href="#">Luke 11:2</a>; <a href="#">Ephesians 3:14-15</a>. Does this mean God is gendered 'male'? What's the pastoral significance of this?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Why is God also like a <i>Mother</i>? e.g. <a href="#">Isaiah 66:13</a>; <a href="#">Matthew 23:37</a>/ <a href="#">Luke 13:34</a>; <a href="#">Luke 15:8-10</a>. Does this mean God is gendered 'female'? What's the pastoral significance of this?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Genesis 1:27</a>: How does Trinity God transcend our human understandings/ experiences of gender?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do we limit/ diminish God if we presume God is male?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is it a coincidence that the Bible, penned by men/ males, mostly refers to (genders) God as being male? Does this matter? Why? Did these male writers make God in <i>their</i> image? Do we risk doing the same? When?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does it matter that, historically, most Bible translators have been men?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How might subconsciously accepting 'God is male' have led to the different experiences/ treatment/ roles of women, when compared to men?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>"Repeated use of God as 'he' (male) subconsciously fuels men's belief that they, as men, should be in charge/ dominate/ control and, for women, that they should be subservient/ dominated/ controlled."</i> Discuss!</li> </ul>
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What past experiences/ events in your life led you to make positive changes?</li> </ul>
 Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> As part of your day, look out for 'three's. e.g. three traffic lights; three little birds, three buses... Each time, recite the Franciscan prayer below.</li> </ul>
 Pray	<p>Say this slowly and repeatedly:</p> <p><i>Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for evermore. Amen.</i></p>
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: [ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups](http://ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups)  
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! [SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk](mailto:SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk)

*Small Group/ Reflection notes written by Ruth McIntosh.*