



Course One: *A Journey of Faith*

SEGMENT 1: YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

The foundations of the Christian faith can be expressed in our belief in the Trinity – the way we as Christians name God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The life and teachings of Jesus and God's promises for each of us can be found in the Bible.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 819)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Do you think about God? About Jesus? About the Holy Spirit?

What is your image of God? Of Jesus? Of the Holy Spirit?

What is Christianity?

VIDEO PRESENTATION



Our purpose in life and God's plan for us – transformation

The Trinity

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

What is Christianity?

Human Nature

The Kingdom of God

USING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As we live out the ministry of the baptized, we find direction through the five Baptismal Covenant promises. These promises are made at every baptism and we ask God's help in keeping these promises. For this class the first, second and third promises are particularly relevant.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When you look for God in your life, you will find God in your life. How is this idea reflected in the following scripture?

Genesis 12:1-7

Exodus 3:1-6

Luke 1:26-38

When have you encountered God or when have you felt the presence of God?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, continued

2. In the video, you saw artwork depicting Adam and Eve and the serpent, the woman touching Jesus' robe and Pentecost. Each represents a person of the Trinity. Read the following scripture to see how.

Genesis 3

Matthew 9: 20-22

Acts 2:1-12

3. How is your idea of the Kingdom of God influenced or changed after reading these passages?

Matthew 13:24-30

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, continued

Matthew 13:31-32

Matthew 13:33

Matthew 13:45

Matthew 13:1-9

4. How do you see yourself in God's image? You may like to draw a picture capturing your concept of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Kingdom of God. Give your drawing to someone else in the group and have them share what they see in it.

W R A P - U P

We have begun a journey in faith today. We may become aware of God's presence in our lives. We will make this journey together in a community of faith. We have examined scripture to help us begin to be better informed about the nature of the Trinity – God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We examined scripture to help us also begin to understand the Kingdom of God. We can share among ourselves; we can be a community.

The following is an excerpt from a sermon by the Rev. Andrew Parker:

I'm sure you all know why we're here today. We've come here because we are hungry, and we are thirsty. We've come because God freed us from something inside and led us out to an open place, where we never before thought we could live. We've come because God healed us of our sickness, or of our ego. Or because we hope and pray that God will heal us yet. We come to this place week in and week out, with a whole bundle of needs. We come to join with the strangers and friends God has chosen for us. So we open our hands, and pray with each other, "God, give us this day our daily bread." And, you know, God continues to hear our prayer and feed us and give us strength.

C L O S I N G P R A Y E R / H Y M N

The following selections can help us reflect on our discussions today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray your selection(s).

The Hymnal 1982

#370 - I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity

#401 - The God of Abraham praise

#482 - Lord of all hopefulness

#507 - Praise the Spirit in creation

#647 - I know not where the road may lead

Wonder, Love & Praise

#753 - When from bondage we are summoned

#757 - Will you come and follow me

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#194 - Lead me, guide me, along the way

