

NATURE OF GOD

Who is God?



April 12, 2026

Week 1: Who is God?

The Trinity – God as Our Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit

I. Introduction – The Nature of God

This week we're starting a four-week journey into the nature of God. Not just what we believe about God, but who He has shown Himself to be. How we perceive from God plays a major role in how we receive from God. We will learn about His names and their meanings. There's a word search on your table that we'll do during the brunch to start you learning and thinking towards what we will discover in the next 3 weeks. Today, we are beginning at the very foundation: God is one, yet three persons. And that changes how we pray, how we worship, and how we live.

II. The Trinity – One God, Three Persons

Matthew 28:19 (ESV) *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

We pray that second verse every week at the end of the service. Today, we're going to go deeper into what it actually means and why we acknowledge this foundation of our Christian faith.

1. There is only one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV) *The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

Deuteronomy 5:7 (ESV) *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

2. That one God exists eternally as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. Each person of the Trinity is fully God.

John 1:1 (ESV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

1st Trinity Illustration: The Sun

- The sun itself → the Father (source) *
- The light we see → the Son (visible expression)
- The heat we feel → the Holy Spirit (personal presence)

You cannot separate the light from the sun, yet they are distinct. You cannot have heat without the sun, yet the warmth is experienced differently. In the same way, the Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct persons, but they are one God.

2nd Trinity Illustration: The Egg – Hands-On Activity

- Bowl 1 – the shell
- Bowl 2 – the yolk (the yellow center)
- Bowl 3 – the egg white (the clear albumen)

Look at your three bowls. You have one egg, yet three completely distinct parts. The shell is not the yolk. The yolk is not the white. The white is not the shell. Yet each one is fully egg. If you threw away the shell, you wouldn't have a whole egg. If you discarded the yolk, you'd have something 'egg-like' but missing its life-giving center. In the same way, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God, yet three distinct persons. Each is fully God, and you cannot remove one without destroying the very nature of God. Now notice the usefulness of each part – and how it mirrors the Trinity's functions in our faith.

The Shell → God the Father (Protector, Source, Boundary)

Usefulness of the egg shell: It protects the contents, gives structure, holds everything together, and defines the boundary between the egg and the outside world. Without the shell, the egg would collapse or be contaminated.

• Function of the Father: The Father is the source of all things, the one who sets the boundaries of creation and providence. He is our protector and the one who gives the plan of salvation. Just as the shell surrounds and holds the egg, the Father surrounds us with His love, authority, and sovereignty.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (ESV) *yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

Psalms 18:2 (ESV) *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Ephesians 4:6 (NLT) *There is one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

Application: When you feel vulnerable or scattered, remember the Father is your shell – not hard and distant, but lovingly protective, giving you a secure identity as His child.

The Yolk → God the Son (Life-Giver, Nourishment, Center)

Usefulness of the egg yolk: The yolk is the nutrient-dense center. It contains the life of the egg. If fertilized, it becomes a chick. It feeds and sustains. Without the yolk, there is no growth, no life.

Function of the Son: Jesus is the center of our faith. He is the bread of life and the one who gives us spiritual nourishment. Just as the yolk sustains the developing chick, the Son sustains our new life. He is the visible, tangible center of the egg, just as He is the visible image of the invisible God.

John 6:35 (ESV) *Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

Colossians 1:15 (ESV) *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,*

John 6:51 (NLT) *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.*

Application: When you feel empty or weak, run to Jesus, the Son. He is the yolk, the rich center that feeds your soul.

The Egg White (Albumen) → The Holy Spirit (Presence, Power, Connection)

Usefulness of the egg white: It surrounds and cushions the yolk, provides additional protein and water, and helps the whole egg function together. It fills the space between the shell and the yolk, connecting everything. It also responds to heat – when cooked, it transforms from liquid to solid, symbolizing active work.

Function of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit fills every believer (**Ephesians 5:18**), connects us to the Son and the Father, empowers us for life, and is the active presence of God in us. Just as the egg white surrounds the yolk and fills the shell, the Holy Spirit surrounds your life with God's presence and connects you to Jesus.

John 16:13 (NLT) *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.*

Application: The Spirit is not a distant force. He is the egg white; filling every space, cushioning your struggles, and empowering you to pray, including praying in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (**Acts 2:4**). When you feel disconnected from God, it's the Spirit who flows through you to restore that connection.

Acts 2:4 (NKJV) *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

You cannot have an egg with only the shell. You cannot have an egg with only the yolk. You need all three to be what God created an egg to be. In the same way, you cannot reduce God to only the Father (distant creator), only the Son (just a teacher or miracle worker), or only the Spirit (just a feeling). He is one God . . . Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each have distinct roles, yet perfectly united.

The egg is broken now, just as Christ was broken for us. But the God it represents is never broken. He is forever ONE.

III. God as Our Father - The Name "Abba"

Context for "Abba": Abba is an Aramaic term of deep intimacy, used by children addressing their father. It carries warmth, trust, and reverence. It implies both closeness and honor. Paul uses it to show that believers are not slaves but adopted children of God. Many refer to Abba as "Daddy God."

Romans 8:15 (NLT) *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'*

Galatians 4:6 (NLT) *And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.'*

Mark 14:36 (NLT) *Jesus Himself prayed, "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."*

Isaiah 64:8 (ESV) *But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

Matthew 6:9 (NLT) *Jesus teaches, "Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy."*

Because God is our Abba, we never need to fear Him as a harsh judge. We come to Him as loved children, not as servants or beggars.

IV. God the Son – The Names "Immanuel" and "Yeshua"

John 1:1 & 14 (ESV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Colossians 2:9 (NLT) *For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.*

1. The Son is the visible image of the invisible God. When we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus. He healed the sick, forgave sins, wept at tombs, and confronted hypocrisy. Jesus is the heart of the Father on display.

2. The name "Immanuel" - **Matthew 1:23, (NLT)** *Look, the virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'*

The Father sent the Son. The Son did not begin at Mary's pregnancy or in Bethlehem; He existed eternally with the Father. But at His virgin birth, God added humanity to His deity. He didn't just send help, He came Himself!

3. The name "Yeshua" (Jesus) means "The Lord saves."

Only God can forgive sin. When Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven" (**Mark 2:5**), the religious leaders rightly understood: Only God can do that. Jesus didn't just point to God; He acted as God because He is God.

4. The Son's role in the Trinity is to reveal the Father and accomplish redemption. He submits to the Father, not because He is less divine, but because relationship within the Godhead has an order of operation. On the cross, the Son cried out to the Father; two distinct persons, one divine nature, working together to save you.

1 Corinthians 15:28 (NLT) *Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.*

The Father planned the rescue. The Son Jesus is the bridge itself, God reaching across the chasm of our sin. You cannot get to the Father except through the Son.

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

V. God the Holy Spirit - The Name "Paraclete"

Acts 5:3-4 (NLT) *Then Peter said, 'Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit... You weren't lying to us but to God.'* (This directly calls the Spirit God.)

John 14:16-17 (ESV) *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.*

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force.

He speaks (**Acts 13:2**), He grieves (**Ephesians 4:30**), He makes decisions (**1 Corinthians 12:11**), and He prays for us (**Romans 8:26**). You cannot have a personal relationship with an "it." You can with Him.

Acts 13:2 (ESV) *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

Romans 8:26 (ESV) *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

2. The name "Paraclete" (Helper / Counselor / Advocate). In John 14, Jesus says He will send "another" Helper. The Greek word *allon* means "another of the same kind." Just as Jesus walked alongside the disciples, the Spirit now walks alongside us. He is not a replacement, He is Jesus' personal presence, made available to every believer everywhere.

3. The Spirit's role in the Trinity is to glorify Jesus and apply His work to our lives. The Father sends the Son; the Father and the Son send the Spirit. The Spirit does not draw attention to Himself, He shines a spotlight on Jesus (**John 16:14**).

- When you feel conviction of sin, that's the Spirit.
- When you understand Scripture, that's the Spirit.
- When you cry out "Abba, Father," that's the Spirit (**Galatians 4:6**).

4. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues as part of God's nature.

Because God is a relational and outpouring God, He does not just save us from a distance. He fills us. The baptism of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:5, 2:4**) is an encounter with the Person of God, not a stand-alone doctrine, but a gift that takes us into a deeper immersion into His presence.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NLT) *For if you speak in a tongue, you are speaking to God, not to people. No one understands you; you are speaking mysteries in the Spirit.*

Praying in tongues is part of the Spirit's ministry of building up the believer (Jude 20). It reflects the nature of a God who is not silent or distant, but who gives us language beyond our own intellect to worship Him. This is not required for salvation, but it is a gift that flows from the Spirit's role as the One who connects our spirit directly to the Father.

VI. Living in the Understanding of the Trinity

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Or as we pray it: "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with us now and forever more. Amen."

1. The Trinity is not a math problem to solve 1,2,3...; it's a relationship to enter.

- The Father loves you like Abba.
- The Son saves you as Immanuel
- The Holy Spirit lives in you as Paraclete.

The three names of God we mainly discussed today are: Abba * Immanuel / Yeshua * Paraclete

When you pray in the Spirit, you pray to the Father, in the name of the Son. All three are involved because all three are one God.