

## B4 - God

### Study 1 - The Father

#### BIBLE READING:

**John 14: 1-11, 23, 24**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God...”**

1 John 3: 1

### THE OLD TESTAMENT

From the time when God chose the Israelites to be His special people, they were encouraged to believe in Him as their Father - the One who cared for them and who planned for their future. This is clearly shown by these two references:

- a) When God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh to ask for the release of the Israelites from slavery, He told him to say, **“Thus says the Lord, Israel is my first-born son, and I say to you, ‘Let my son go that he may serve Me’”.** (Exodus 4: 22-23)
- b) When the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses reminded them of how God had helped them during their years in the wilderness. He said, **“The Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place”.** (Deuteronomy 1: 31)

Therefore we can see that God viewed the nation as His son, and He displayed all the qualities of a father in leading them out of slavery and into their own country. He continually cared for them physically, educated them spiritually, and disciplined them lovingly when they disobeyed His laws. He loved Israel, just as a good father loves his children, and He watched over them both for their temporal good and for their eternal blessing.

### THE NEW TESTAMENT

By the time of Jesus, therefore, the idea of ‘God, the Father’ was firmly implanted in Jewish minds. When teaching His disciples about God, the Lord Jesus frequently used the title ‘Father’ to refer to God, but He went much further than the Old Testament had done, in that He taught His followers to believe in God as **“your Father who is in Heaven”.** (Matthew 5: 45-48)

But even more important than His teaching ABOUT the Father was the fact that in everything He said and did, Jesus showed exactly what the Father was like. He said, **“Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father”.** (John 14: 9) Jesus is the perfect and final revelation of God, the Father.



But do all people know God as their Father in a personal way? Is this a relationship which is common to all of us? There is a sense in which every created being can claim to be God’s offspring because it is in Him that we **“have our being”.** (See Acts 17: 28) But to know God in the fullest sense as our Father, we need to take heed of the words of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”.** (John 14: 6) When Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia he said, **“for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith”.** (Galatians 3: 26)

When we have received the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we can rest secure in the knowledge that God is our Heavenly Father, and, as such, He loves us and will provide for us. Our response should be that of a child who has respect for his earthly father, and who lives in a way which will please him and bring credit to him. **“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...”** (Philippians 2: 14, 15) Our aim as members of God’s family should always be to reflect His character, and to be true to our relationship to Him as Father.

## B4 - God

### Study 2 - The Son

#### BIBLE READING:

**Hebrews 1: 1-9**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“Thomas answered Him,  
‘My Lord and my God!’”**

John 20: 28

### THE FACT OF HIS DEITY

Many people today deny that Jesus is God. But a Saviour who is not truly God is like a bridge broken at its far end! We need, therefore, to be clear in our minds, as well as believing in our hearts, that Jesus is God the Son. **“For in Him (i.e. Christ) the whole fullness of Deity dwells bodily.” (Colossians 2: 9)** If we say someone is divine, we mean that person has God-like qualities. But when we speak about ‘the Deity of Jesus’ we mean that He is God!

There are two reasons why the truth of the Deity of Christ must be foundational in our Christian faith:-

1. Our eternal salvation depends solely upon the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. **“Whoever believes IN HIM should not perish but have eternal life... whoever believes IN HIM is not condemned.” (John 3: 16, 18)** If Jesus is not God, could we ever be sure of our salvation?
2. Our strength and guidance for life depend upon the constant presence and help of the Lord Jesus Christ. **“Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7: 25)** Only someone who is equal with God could do this.

### THE PROOFS OF HIS DEITY

#### 1. The Worship of Men

When Jesus lived on earth people came to worship Him. Examples are the Wise Men, a demon-possessed man and His disciples. (See **Matthew 2: 11, Mark 5: 6, 7, Matthew 14: 33**) Others refused to recognise His Deity, but all who did were doing what was right and pleasing to God and were foreshadowing a future time when every knee will bow and every tongue confess **“that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”.** (Philippians 2: 11)

#### 2. His Miracles

The miracles or signs recorded in John’s gospel are to help us believe that **“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name”.** (John 20: 31) They demonstrate Jesus’ power over things

outside human control, for example, the feeding of 5,000 people with a few loaves and fish, the healing of a man who had been ill for 38 years and the calming of a storm on the Sea of Galilee. In doing so, He was proving His Deity and challenging people to believe in Him. On one occasion, He said to them, **“...even though you do not believe Me, believe the works (miracles), that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father”.** (John 10: 38)

#### 3. His Authority

One day, Jesus told a man that his sins were forgiven but the onlooking Pharisees asserted that only God could forgive sins. Jesus replied, **“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”** and proceeded to demonstrate His power to deal with sin by also giving the man strength to walk. (Luke 5: 17-26) Many others, too, experienced His deliverance from their sins and from the grip of Satan’s power in which they were held.

#### 4. His Resurrection

We believe that only God has power over life and death, yet Jesus spoke of His life in a way which made it clear that He was in total control of His life. He said, **“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again”.** (John 10: 18) No-one else could have spoken like this.



#### 5. The Witness of God the Father

When Jesus was baptised, God said **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”.** (Matthew 3: 16, 17) A second example of God the Father acknowledging that Jesus is God the Son is found in **Hebrews 1: 5 “You are My Son.”** It is important to note also that in **verse 8** God addresses the Son as ‘God!’ **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”** No higher witness to the Deity of Christ can be found than that of God Himself!

# Answer Sheet

## B4 - God

### Study 1 - The Father

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Using *John 1: 12*, explain how a person comes into relationship with God as Father.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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2. 'Like father, like son' is an expression commonly used when a boy looks, speaks, and acts like his father. In what ways should 'children of God' be like their heavenly Father?

\_\_\_\_\_

/3

3. Read *Psalm 103: 13* and answer the questions:

a) What quality does a father show to his son? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Explain how the Lord displays this same quality. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Explain the difference between being "*the offspring of God*" and being "*the children of God*". For full marks, use suitable Bible references.

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5. Read *John 14: 8-10*

a) What request did Philip make? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Explain what Jesus meant by the answer He gave. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

/4

6. In 'The Sermon on the Mount', Jesus taught His disciples that God is their "*Father in Heaven*".

a) Use *Matthew 6: 7, 8, 26-32* to summarise how He cares for His children. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

/3

b) By what means can God's children communicate with Him? (*Matthew 6: 9-15*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

/1

7. Use the Bible Reading to decide whether each statement is TRUE or FALSE.

a) Heaven is described as "*My Father's House*". \_\_\_\_\_

b) Jesus said that there are many ways to the Father. \_\_\_\_\_

c) Thomas said, "*Show me the Father*". \_\_\_\_\_

d) The Father loves those who keep the words of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

/4

**THINK:** Reflect on the privilege of having God as your Heavenly Father. Spend time thanking Him for all this relationship means to you.

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## B4 - God

### Study 2 - The Son

1. What is meant by 'the Deity of Jesus'?

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2. In your own words, give one reason why the truth of the Deity of the Lord Jesus is important.

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3. Answer TRUE or FALSE to each of these statements:

- a) Jesus never allowed anyone to call Him 'The Son of God'.
- b) All the fullness of Deity dwells in Jesus Christ.
- c) The Lord Jesus never forgave anyone's sins; He said that only God can do so.
- d) God gave witness to the Deity of Jesus at His baptism.
- e) Belief in the Deity of Jesus Christ is an essential point of Christian doctrine.
- f) In the future everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord.

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4. Why did John record the miracles (or 'signs') done by Jesus? (See *John 20: 30,31*)

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5. In *John 10: 17-18*, Jesus claimed to have exceptional power over His own life.

- a) What did He say no one could do to Him?
- b) What did He say He would do after He had laid down His life?
- c) What do these statements tell us about Him?

/5

6. Read the account about Thomas in *John 20: 24-29*.

- a) What conditions did Thomas lay down for believing that Jesus was risen?
- b) Write out Thomas' words from the Key Verse.
- c) What do you think led to such a remarkable change in the attitude of Thomas?

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7. Write out two phrases from *Hebrews 1: 1-4* which emphasise the Deity of the Lord Jesus.

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**THINK:** You are with someone who says that they don't believe that Jesus is God. What convincing proofs of His Deity could you point out from the Gospels?

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## B4 - God

### Study 3 - The Holy Spirit

#### 1. Answer the following:

a) How does **Psalm 139: 7** demonstrate the omnipresence of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

b) How does **1 Corinthians 2: 9-10** demonstrate the omniscience of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

c) How does **Romans 8: 11** demonstrate the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 2. In what forms did the Holy Spirit appear at:

a) The baptism of Jesus? (**Matthew 3: 16**) \_\_\_\_\_

b) The formation of the Church, on the Day of Pentecost? (**Acts 2: 1-4**) \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 3. Answer the following:

a) Use **Galatians 5: 22-23** to write a list of six qualities which result from the Holy Spirit operating in a Christian's life.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Bearing in mind that these qualities were seen in perfection in the Lord Jesus, what is the Holy Spirit working to achieve in each Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. Write TRUE or FALSE after each of these statements:

a) The Holy Spirit is only an influence and has no real personality. \_\_\_\_\_

b) The Holy Spirit was active in the creation of the universe. \_\_\_\_\_

c) In Old Testament times, no one knew anything about the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

d) Before He died, the Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to be a Helper, or Comforter, to His disciples. \_\_\_\_\_

e) Christians receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 5. Here are the names of some people whom the Holy Spirit used, in various ways, along with the Bible references. Draw a line from each name to the correct reference.

Samson

**Acts 11: 22-24**

Peter

**Numbers 24: 2**

Stephen

**Acts 4: 8**

Balaam

**Judges 14: 5-6**

Barnabas

**Acts 6: 5**

Gideon

**Judges 6: 34**

 /6

**THINK:** Am I depending on the Holy Spirit to help and guide me in my life, or am I trying to do things in my own strength?

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## B4 - God

### Study 4 - The Holy Trinity

1. 'God is infinite, but we are finite'. Explain what is meant by this statement.

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2. Read *Matthew 3: 16-17* and explain the part played by both God the Father and the Holy Spirit, at the baptism of Jesus.

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3. Read the words of the Lord Jesus in *John 14: 25-26*, then answer these questions:

a) By whom will the Holy Spirit be sent? \_\_\_\_\_

b) What other name, or title, is used for the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What is the work, or function, of the Holy Spirit, according to these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Read *2 Corinthians 13: 14* again and explain in your own words the blessings we receive from the Godhead.

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5. Explain, as clearly as you can, what it means to be baptised "*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*".

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6. What do you think it means to accept the rule of the Godhead over our lives?

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7. The word 'Trinity' literally means 'three in one'. Why is this word very suitable as a name for the Godhead, even though it is not found in the Bible?

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**THINK:** Does knowing about God, and believing in Him make any difference in your life? Try to express how you feel about what these studies have been teaching.

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL =  /25    UNIT TOTAL =  /100

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## B4 - God

### Study 3 - The Holy Spirit

#### BIBLE READING:

**John 16: 7-15**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”**

Genesis 1: 2

### THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Key Verse teaches us that the Spirit of God (or ‘Holy Spirit’ as He is often called) played a major role in the creation of the earth. The Holy Spirit is a Person, equal with the Father and the Son, in the Godhead. He possesses all the qualities of Deity, for example:

1. **Omnipresence** - the ability to be in every place.  
*Psalm 139: 7*
2. **Omniscience** - the ability to know all things.  
*1 Corinthians 2: 9-10*
3. **Omnipotence** - the ability to do all things.  
*Romans 8: 11*

### THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Old Testament times, there were occasions when the Holy Spirit gave special ability and strength to chosen individuals, for example:-

1. Samson, Israel’s well-known judge. Concerning him, *Judges 14: 6* says **“The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and... he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.”**
2. Bezalel, a skilled craftsman who was responsible for much of the intricate workmanship in the construction of the Tabernacle. Speaking about him, Moses said, **“See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel... and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship”.** (*Exodus 35: 30-31*)

But it is in the New Testament that the role of the Holy Spirit becomes much more prominent. Note these areas where He operates:-

1. In the life and service of the Lord Jesus. At His baptism, the Spirit came down, and remained upon Him. (*John 1: 31-34*) In all His teaching and in His performance of miracles, He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. (*Luke 4: 16-21*)

2. In the Church, which was formed by the Spirit’s power, as described in **Acts 2: 1-4**. Ever since then, the Holy Spirit has been the Teacher and Guide of the Church. (*John 16: 13-14*)
3. In the lives of individual believers. He develops their character and enables them to become more Christ-like. (*Galatians 5: 22-25*)
4. Amongst the masses of people who are as yet unbelievers. The Holy Spirit is unceasingly at work, convincing people that they are sinners, in need of being saved. (*John 16: 7-11*)

So we can see that, from the beginning of all things to the end of all things, the Holy Spirit is active. (See Key Verse and **Revelation 22: 17**) He may be compared to the wind which, though we cannot see it, is constantly affecting us in some way. (*John 3: 5-8*)



### THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before the Lord Jesus left this earth to go back to His Father, He promised His disciples that He would send them **“another Helper”** who would take His place when He was no longer with them. (*John 14: 15-16*) This promise was fulfilled ten days after the Lord Jesus returned to Heaven, when His apostles were gathered together in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. In a miraculous way, the Holy Spirit came upon them. (See **Acts 2: 1-4**) They became **“members of the body” of which the Lord Jesus is “the Head”**. (*1 Corinthians 12: 12-13; Colossians 1: 18*) From then onwards, each person receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion and becomes part of the Church. (*Ephesians 1: 13*)

Although we receive the Spirit at our conversion, we must learn to depend upon this special Person to help us in our witness and service for God. We must constantly commit our lives to Him for His guidance in all the decisions which we face. Too often we try to live in our own strength and wisdom, and then we wonder why we fail! Let us, today, thank God for His Holy Spirit, and **“let us remember that since we live by the Spirit, we should also walk by the Spirit.”** (*Galatians 5: 25*)

## B4 - God

### Study 4 - The Holy Trinity

#### BIBLE READING:

**John 14: 15-27**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

Matthew 28: 19

In the Key Verse we read about **“the Father”, “the Son”, and “the Holy Spirit”**. Together, they form what is often referred to as ‘The Trinity’, (a word that is not found in the Bible) or **“The Godhead”**. This is, of course, a great mystery, for God is INFINITE - that is to say, He has no limitations and therefore we cannot measure Him. He is the supreme Being, the Creator and Upholder of the whole universe, and is almighty in His power and His wisdom.

In contrast to God, we, as created beings, are FINITE, which means that we are limited in many ways. All of us soon learn that our powers and abilities are restricted by many factors!



Patrick, the first missionary to Ireland, is reputed to have used a shamrock leaf to teach about the Trinity (Image source: Wikipedia)

### ONE GOD -THREE PERSONS - DIVERSITY

When we attempt to study the subject of the Trinity, we do well to admit our limitations, though there need be no limit to our faith. We can accept the fact that God is ONE GOD, IN THREE PERSONS, even though we do not wholly understand it.

Here are some important points which the Bible reveals:

- There is one God. (**Isaiah 45: 22; Mark 12: 29**)
- Within the Godhead, there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Spirit; each is ‘GOD’ in the fullest sense of the word. (See Studies 1, 2, 3)
- The Father, the Son and the Spirit are quite distinct from each other. This is seen in **John 14: 16** where the Son (Jesus) promises to make request to the Father, who will send the Holy Spirit.

### ONE GOD -THREE PERSONS - UNITY

Although the Persons in the Godhead are separate, there are many instances where their unity is clearly displayed. The presence and action of One, involves the presence and action of the Others. Note how all three are involved in:

- The baptism of Jesus by John. **Matthew 3: 16, 17**
- His death at Calvary. **Hebrews 9: 14**
- The baptism of believers on the Lord Jesus. **Matthew 28: 18, 19**
- The giving of the Holy Spirit. **John 14: 26; Acts 2: 32, 33**

All three Persons of the Godhead are united in being the source of all our blessings, as is clearly seen in **2 Corinthians 13: 14**, **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”**.

### ONE GOD -THREE PERSONS - AUTHORITY

The Key Verse teaches that baptism is to be **“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**. This was the Lord’s final command to His apostles before He ascended into Heaven. Baptism is a public witness of a person’s conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ. **“In the name...”** declares that from now on that person’s allegiance is to the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This command of the Lord lifts the teaching about the Trinity from a merely academic level into something which has to do with our practical Christian living. Being baptised **“In the name...”** indicates that we have accepted the rule of the Godhead over our lives.

When the Lord said, **“baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**, He was emphasising three facts:

- The unity of the Godhead. (Note that “name” is singular - not plural!)
- All who become disciples are under the authority of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- All Christians can rely upon the active involvement of the three Persons of the Trinity in their spiritual and eternal blessing.

The fact that the all-powerful and holy God has loved us and given His unique Son for our salvation shows clearly the response we should make. Past and present experiences teach us that life brings a mixture of joy and sorrow, of doubts and certainties! To know the love of God the Father, the companionship of God the Son, and the comfort and guidance of God the Holy Spirit, is to have a relevant dimension in our lives which cannot be found anywhere else!

This is the last of four units on **God**.

04/2023