Discussion Questions
December 3, 2023

Noel: He is Born
Where Did Jesus Come From?

1. In what ways have common misconceptions about the gospel message led to Christians not experiencing the abundant life that Jesus promises us, but rather exhaustion, judgmentalism or just apathy?

2. Read 1 John 4:7-9

   What do we learn about God from this passage?

   In what ways, if any, have you wrestled with not seeing God as defined by love? How have you struggled to see the Father as relatable as the Son?

3. How have you understood & related to the Trinity? Can you relate to sometimes having a stale, "believe this because you have to, but don't really know why it matters" view of the trinity?

   How does seeing how incredibly relational and loving the trinity is before creation impact your understanding of God and His posture towards you?

4. Discuss the following quote from Dr. Baxter Kruger. Unpack a little bit what you think he means and discuss how it does or does not align to your scriptural understanding of the Trinity.

   This Father, Son and Spirit create to share what they have with us. The goal of the Trinity is inclusion. The purpose of the Father, Son and Spirit in creation is to draw us within the circle of their shared life so that we too can experience it with them.

5. Read John 17:20-23

   If Jesus was not Exaggerating and actually meant what He said, then what implications does that have for us today in how we relate to God & to one another?

NORTHVIEW
Community Church

Noel:
French root: nouvelles = News
Latin root: natalis = Birth
= News of Christ's Birth
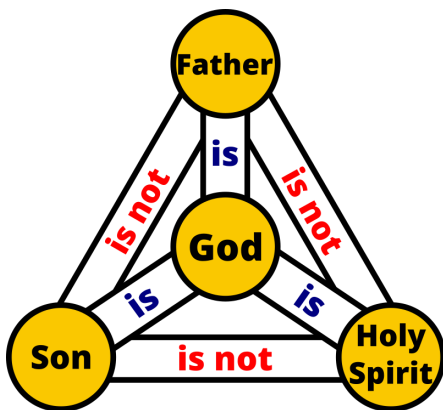
Noel = News of Christ's Birth

Gospel = Good News

Genesis 1:1
In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth...

John 1:1-4 (NIV)
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The TRINITY is the very essence of Who God is.

To be God is to be in fellowship, to be in relationship

1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)
*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.***

John 17:24 (NIV)
Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the creation of the world.

Matthew 3:17 (ESV)
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

John 12:44-45, 49-50 (NLT)
Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me... I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say."

Dr DA Carson
What we have, then, is a picture of God whose love, even in eternity past, even before the creation of anything, is other-oriented."

Dr Tim Keller
If God were unipersonal, (meaning not distinct/not relational) then he would have not known love until he created other beings. In that case, love and community would not have been essential to his character; it would have emerged later. But God is triune, and therefore love, friendship, and community are intrinsic to him and at the heart of all reality.

Dr. Baxter Kruger "The Great Dance"
It is all about fellowship. And fellowship means that God is not a lonely, sad and depressed being. As Father, Son and Spirit, living in fellowship, God is essentially and eternally very happy. The Father, Son and Spirit live in conversation, in a fellowship of free-flowing togetherness and sharing and delight--a great dance of shared life that is full and rich and passionate, creative and good and beautiful.

Genesis 1:26 (NLT)
Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.

John 10:10 (ESV)
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Dr. Tim Keller - "The Reason for God"
So a triune God created us but he would not have created us to get the joy of mutual love and service, because he already had that. Rather, he created us to share in his love and service… to share the joy and love that God knew within himself

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
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…. God's joy and happiness and delight in divine perfections is expressed.

Dr. Baxter Kruger "The Great Dance"
Now, why does this God, this Father, Son and Spirit, create the universe? Why does this Father, Son and Spirit create human beings, you, me, our children? Why does this Father, Son and Spirit create the animals and birds and fish and flowers, and the millions of beautiful things all around us? Why does this God create work and play and relationships, romance and sex, sports and laughter and food?

What is the rhyme and reason behind all of these things? When you start with the Trinity, it is the most obvious thing in the world. This Father, Son and Spirit create to share what they have with us. The goal of the Trinity is inclusion. The purpose of the Father, Son and Spirit in creation is to draw us within the circle of their shared life so that we too can experience it with them.

John 17:20-23
I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me

Psalm 51:12
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.