

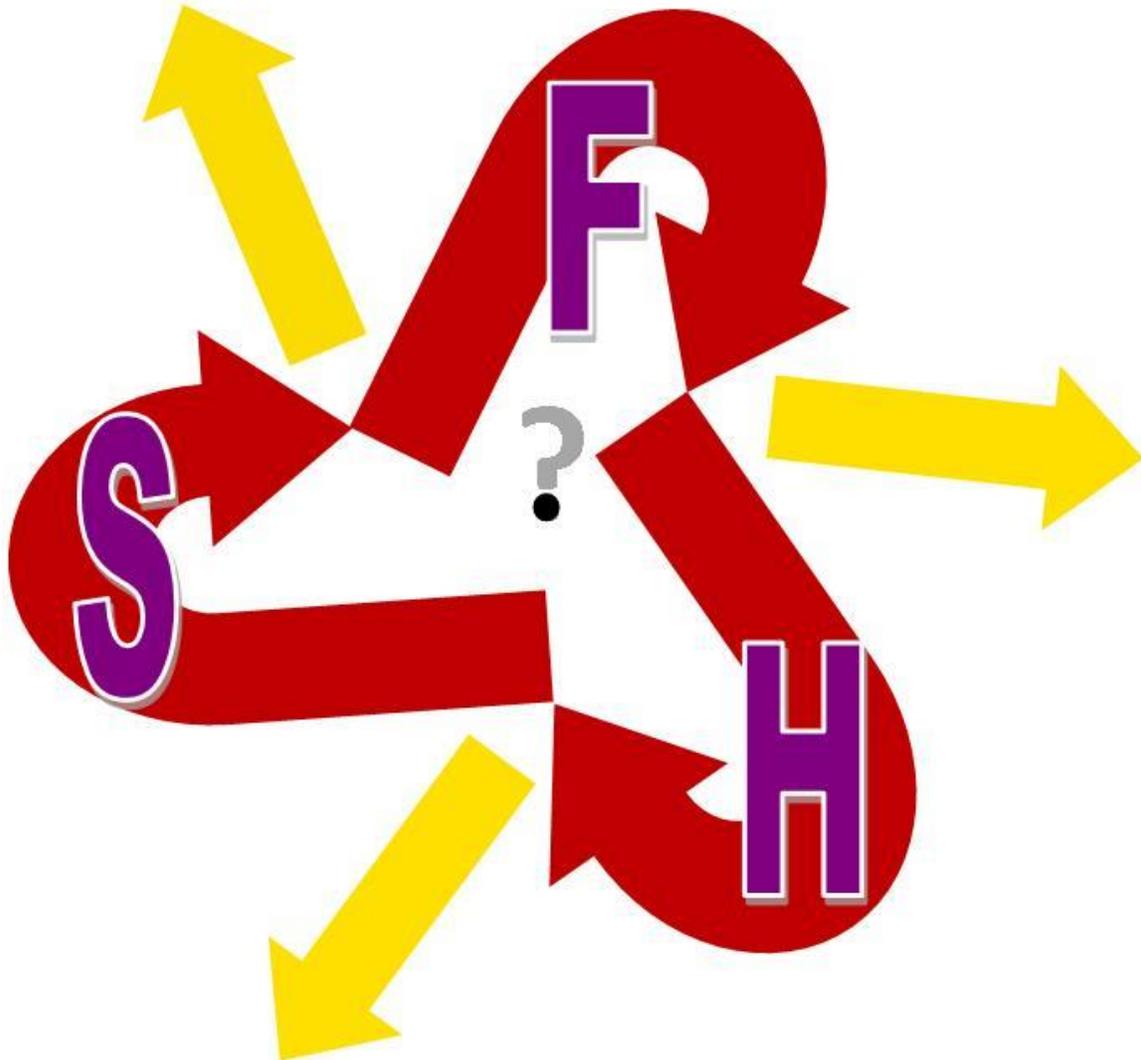
PICTURE THIS!

The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!
September – December 2016*

Week #1 – GOD!

Picture It!



Say It!

God is a glorious relationship of three in one, giving Himself for the good of the other.

Memorize It!

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

Picture it!

1. God IS a Relationship!
 - a. Though God is one, He is a perfect union of three persons as the letters in the picture suggest:
 - i. F = Father.
 - ii. S = Son.
 - iii. H = Holy Spirit.
 - b. We call this relationship of God the 'Trinity'.
 - c. There is mystery when it comes to God being three in one. Notice the dot in the center of the picture. This reminds us that God is one, but it is also the dot at the bottom of a question mark to remind us that we cannot understand everything about God. However, this should not trouble us! What kind of God would He be if we could understand everything about Him? (Isaiah 55:9).

2. There is Order in the Relationships of the Trinity:
 - a. The arranging of the letters in the picture represents the order of the relationships within the Trinity. Though the persons of the Trinity are perfectly equal in nature, they are different in order and in role.
 - i. God the Father is 'head' (1 Corinthians 11:3).
 - ii. The Son declared that the Father is greater (John 14:28).
 - iii. The Holy Spirit's role is to point people to Jesus (John 16:14).

3. The Relationships Within the Trinity are Perfectly Loving and Selfless:
 - a. The red arrows represent the loving, relationships of the Trinity and together the red arrows (roughly) form the shape of a heart.
 - b. The arrows flow out from each person of the Trinity and around another person of the Trinity. This is to show the selflessness of these relationships. Rather than insisting on being the center of things, each person of the Trinity revolves around the others in loving sacrifice. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit love one another, serve one another and glorify one another.
 - i. The Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14).

- ii. The Son glorifies the Father (John 17:4).
- iii. The Father glorifies the Son (2 Peter 1:17).
- iv. The Son submits to the Father (Luke 22:42).
- v. The Spirit is sent by the Father (John 14:26).
- vi. The Spirit is sent in Jesus' name (John 14:26).
- vii. The Spirit is credited for the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14).
- viii. The Father gives everything over to the Son (John 3:35).
- ix. The Son says the Father is greater (John 14:28).

4. God is Glorious!

- a. The gold coloured arrows represent the glory of God.
- b. The glory of God is the beauty that flows from who He is.
- c. The arrows are coloured gold to speak of the worth of God's glory
 - i. We worship God because of His worth!
- d. The gold arrows flow out from God to remind us that He selflessly wants to share Himself.
 - i. He puts His glory on display out of kindness, not pride.
- e. The three gold arrows describe three aspects of God's glory that make Him holy (set apart or different):
 - i. Greatness! The attributes that make Him God alone.
 - ii. Goodness! He is perfectly just and right.
 - iii. Grace! He is incredibly compassionate, merciful and kind.

Panorama!

The universe was created by God to put His glory on display. The universe is filled with relationships because it was made by a relational God. The pinnacle of God's creation is humanity which was made in His image. God puts His glory on display, not because He is proud, but because in His kindness He wants to unselfishly share Himself with people, just as the persons of the trinity unselfishly give of themselves to one another.

Selfie!

As a human being, I am made in the image of God! This means that:

- I am made to reflect God's glory.

- I am made for relationship with God and with other people.
- I am made for selfless love, not for selfish pride.

As a human being, I am broken by sin. This means that:

- I have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- I am driven by pride and selfishness.
- My relationship with God is broken.
- My relationships with people are incomplete and often damaged.

As a human being I need to be rescued from my sin and brokenness!

Instagram!

As we share the truth about God with others we can emphasize:

- The glory of God is His greatness, goodness and grace!
- God is a relational God by nature who desires that we have a healthy relationship with Him and with others!
- God's intention is to share Himself with us in kindness, not force Himself upon us in pride!
- We have fallen short of His glory and we need help!

Key Story!

Isaiah's Vision – Isaiah 6:1-7

- God is holy!
- The earth is full of His glory!
- He is great!
 - High and lifted up The train of His robe fills the temple.
- He is good!
 - In God's presence, Isaiah knew that he was a man of unclean lips.
- He is gracious
 - Isaiah was cleansed with a coal from the fire and granted the privilege of speaking for God.

Key Questions!

1. Since God is a perfect relationship, what does that tell us about what He must be like?
2. Is it really possible for someone to have a place of authority and yet still serve others humbly and unselfishly?
3. In our lives, who do we naturally want to be at the center of things? How does that cause us to treat others?
4. What would you say is the most beautiful thing about God?
5. What are the three 'G' words that describe God's glory?
6. What do you think it means to "fall short of God's glory" (Romans 3:23).
7. If God has always existed in perfect harmony as 3 in 1, why did He create the universe, the world and people? Was He lonely or needy?
8. How could you prove from the Bible that each member of the Trinity glorifies the others? What Scriptures could you point to?
9. How is it possible for us to become more like God in sacrificial love and unselfish living toward Him and other people?
10. What do you think is the greatest mystery about God? How can we be sure to trust God even when there are things about Him that we don't understand?