

REVIEW

- 1. Was there anything from this past Sunday's message that challenged or confused you?**
- 2. Can you think of one thing from Sunday's sermon that you are likely to remember two weeks from now?**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1. As you think of one of your favorite bosses, coaches or teachers, what was it about them that made it easy to follow their advice or example?**
- 2. This past Sunday Pastor Jeff taught that love is the principal attribute of the trinity. What was your home like growing up? Would you characterize it as loving? Why or why not?**

DIGGING DEEPER

Mark's Gospel begins with a recapitulation of the Creation account seen in Genesis 1. In the Genesis account the Trinity is represented in the first three verses where it is written:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Here the word translated "God" in vv. 1 is *'elohiym* which is one of the most common names for God in the Hebrew Scriptures. The word translated Spirit in vv. 2 is the Hebrew word *ruwach* which literally means "breath" or "wind". It may help to think of the Spirit as the agency of God.¹ In verse three, God speaks and his Word has the power to create. This Word according to Mark is the Son with whom the Father is pleased.

1. Read John 1:1-17 and consider the following questions.

- How would you sum up John's main point in this passage?

- What similarities if any do you notice between this passage and the first chapter of Mark? What about the first chapter of The Gospel of John?

- How does John describe Jesus' salvific work in this text? Why do you think that might be significant?

2. On Sunday we learned that love is at the center of the Trinity and that because of Jesus we are invited into that family as adopted children. Now we are given the

¹ Gunton writes: "...the Spirit is the one by whose agency God the father Justifies, Sanctifies, and, at the last, raises from the dead through and with his Son"

great opportunity to live out the Good News and point others toward Jesus. How do the following verses help us know what this looks like?

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Matthew 5:9 - *9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

John 13:35 - *35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

2 Timothy 2:15 - *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

Looking back at what you just wrote, what are some specific examples of how you can point others towards the Good News?

Prayer Requests:
