

God Our Father

Lesson 5 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will recognize that people use images that describe an aspect of God in order to gain insight into the mystery of God.
- The participants will explore central images of God in Scripture and in Sacred Tradition.
- The participants will investigate the doctrine of the Trinity and consider how it helps people to more deeply understand the mystery of God.

Content Summary

1. The Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons. It is the central mystery of the Christian faith. We call it a mystery because it cannot be understood by human reason.
2. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God in three Divine Persons. They share the same “substance” or “essence” but are also distinct from one another.
3. The Trinity teaches us that God is not solitary but exists as a communion of persons united in perfect harmony.
4. Jesus is God the Father’s Divine Son, who has existed with the Father for all eternity. When Jesus Christ took on human nature, he was able to reveal his Father to us in the way that only a child can speak about a parent.
5. There is no creature, no power, and no force anywhere in creation that is more powerful than God. In describing this, we sometimes say that God is omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (present everywhere), and omniscient (all-knowing).
6. Although Catholics honor in a special way the image of God as loving Father, we recognize that all human images we have of God are incomplete.
7. Scripture and Tradition teach us that God is truth and God is love. In the end these two statements probably say more about God than anything else we could say.

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