

THE CIRCLE OF CELEBRATION STUDY QUESTIONS

1. SHARING IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE TRINITY

1. What have been the times in your life when you have felt most fulfilled and loved and joyful? What were the circumstances that produced this state in your life?
2. Four passages of Scripture are referenced in the second paragraph: John 10:10, John 14:27, John 15:9-10 and John 17:13. Taken together, how do they add content to the message of Good News in Christ?
3. The example of the first church in Jerusalem which we read about in Acts 2:42-47 is to some extent peculiar to the context of the time, but what inspiration does it have for our experience of being the community of Christ in our day?
4. The Trinity shows us that relationship is central to the identity of God and gives rich content to the often glib statement that "God is love". Jesus takes this further in saying, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." What, for you, in the various spheres of your life is the challenge and the promise that would result from a greater emphasis on relationship and love?

2. ELOHIM

1. How did you personally first come to know God, and how has that knowledge of God developed through your walk of faith?
2. The Jewish faith is one of the world's great monotheistic religions with its core affirmation taken from Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear O Israel, the Lord your God is one", yet the Old Testament begins with "In the beginning, Elohim..." which is the plural form, and goes on to make the statement, "Let us make human beings in our image". How do we hold these two things together? To what extent do you find the image of a (3 note) chord in music a helpful analogy?
3. What do you think are the implications (personally and communally) of growing into a deeper knowledge of the relational heart and essence of the God we serve and worship?
4. How do you respond to the statement: *"I am coming to see, more and more that teaching, along with worship and mission and all the other things we do as the church, are servants to relationship and take their significance solely from that."*?

3. YAHWEH

1. How do you respond when God seems to act, or not act, in ways that make no sense to you?
2. In the ancient world the idea was that if you knew the name of a specific god, you could invoke or summon that God and access divine power in that way. To what extent does that perspective still drive some attitudes and approaches to prayer and faith?
3. The name God gives to Moses in Exodus 3:13-14 – YHWH – is very fluid and can mean “I am who I am”, “I will be who I will be”, “I am who I was”, “I will be who I am”, and so forth. How does that name make it impossible to exert any control over God? What does that mean for us in our relationship with God?
4. The only way we can come to know a God whose name is too mysterious and dynamic for definition is by living encounter as he acts in our world and in our lives. What does that mean for the content and direction of your faith?
5. To what extent is being born as a baby in a stable, living as a man in an obscure village and dying in public humiliation on a cross, an entirely appropriate expression of a God who reveals himself as YHWH? How does this enrich your response to Jesus?