

**The Trinity before our very eyes: Matthew 3:13-17**

1. **Baptism. (Leader preparation. Find out your church's position on baptism)** What is your church's tradition of baptism? What do you understand by the act? Is it a command or an option?

2. **Christ's baptism.** Christ was baptized to identify with his people. What difference does it make to you that Christ identifies with you? In what other ways does he identify with us in his life and ministry? See Matt 4:2; 25:34-36; Mark 11:12; Jn 4:6

3. **The Trinity.** Look up Gen 1: 26-27. What clues are there of the nature of God from this passage? Christ is both human and divine. Do you tend to favour one over the other? (Most of us do). What are the consequences for one's spiritual life of emphasizing one over the other?

4. **The Trinity and Community Life.** What does the nature of God tell us about community life in the church? If we are made in God's image and He is Three in One, how should that effect how we live together?

5. **The Trinity and Love.** The Trinity is sometimes seen as a loving community. How does that effect how we see God, and how he relates to us as his creation? I John is one of the great books on love. Read chapter four and discuss love and community in your group. Where are you being challenged personally regarding love and community in your life?