



Everything has a beginning. So does faith.

So if you could have a fresh start when it comes to God, where would faith begin?

Welcome to Starting Point!

Lesson 1 - "It's a Small World"

### LESSON ONE:

## It's a Small World

### Section 1 - God is Triune

#### There is one God

*Isaiah 45:5* "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."

God consists of three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### 1. The Father is God

*John 17:1-3* "After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 'Father... Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.'"

#### 2. The Son is God

*Colossians 2:9* "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."

#### 3. The Holy Spirit is God

*2 Corinthians 3:17, 18* "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

#### 4. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct from one another.

*Matthew 3:16, 17* "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

#### 5. The nature of the Trinity is love

*John 15:9-10* "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."

#### 6. The persons of the Trinity eternally glorify one another

*John 8:54* Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me."

*John 17:5* And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

#### 7. The doctrine of the trinity is that God is eternally existent in three persons. It is neither tri-theism, nor is it uniperonalism. Trinitarianism is the doctrine that there is only one God who is three persons who know and love one another. He is not more fundamentally one than three nor three than one.

"In Christianity, God is not a static thing but a pulsating activity. A life. Almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance." - C.S. Lewis

You were made to live in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

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God exists in a community that is marked by love. It means you were created to find your significance and purpose within God's community of love. You were made to live with him forever.

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## Section 2 - God is glorious

**Isaiah 6:1-2** *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

Glory – heavy; substantial; \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 6:4** *At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

**Isaiah 6:5-7** *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

You are too small to be the starting point of your faith. Faith begins with God. When you get a sense of his size and his glory, you learn how to properly approach him as he really is.

**Psalms 103:11-22** *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us... The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. <sup>20</sup> Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. <sup>21</sup> Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. <sup>22</sup> Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

### Questions

1. How did your childhood shape the starting point of your faith?

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1. Was there a time when your childhood faith collided with our grown up world?

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1. Read Psalm 19:1-6. Do you ever lose perspective on how big God is? Why or why not?

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4. Read Psalm 8:1-4. Do you ever lose perspective on how small you are? Why or why not?

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5. Being small is not the same as being insignificant. Explain the difference. How do we try to build a false significance? How do we find a true significance?

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