

## The Apostles Creed

I believe in ... the Father ... Son ... Holy Spirit



### Overview of the message:

Though the Bible and the Creed do not mention the word 'Trinity', this has been at the heart of Christian belief from the beginning, an essential distinctive of Christianity. Far from it being dry or theoretical, Sam showed the truth of God as three-in-one to be dynamic, life-giving, beautiful and a vital foundation of our faith.

#### 1. Where do we find the Trinity in the Bible?

The three-in-one nature of God is seen in Creation, God's salvation plan, the Exodus, the Exile, the Incarnation, and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

#### 2. Why is the Trinity Important?

- Truth matters
- It's how God reveals himself
- It's life-giving, glorious and beautiful
- All Christians have believed it
- It's the defining belief of Christianity
- It's how we know and experience God
- Without this he would not be love.

#### 3. What is God like?

- The Father – almighty, the one who adopts us
- The Son – the radiance of the Father's glory, shows us what God is like
- The Spirit – a person, not a force, who works in our lives
  - Opens our eyes
  - Gives us new birth
  - Pours out God's grace
  - Directs our gaze to Jesus
  - Directs our gaze to the Father
  - Changes our affections

### Questions for group discussion

1. Discuss how the three-in-one nature of God is seen in:

- Creation (Gen 1:1-3 and John 1:1-5)
- Jesus' Incarnation (Luke 1:26-37)
- Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:21-22)
- Jesus' death (eg Hebrews 9:14)

2. Sam stated that if God was only one (and not three-in-one) he could not be love (1 John 4:7). Discuss why.

3. Consider the situations and challenges your group members are facing now. Discuss how each of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a help to us.

4. What does being 'in Christ' imply about the Father's love for us? (Luke 3:22)