

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Trinity Sunday 2021 by Phillip Dixon based on “Church, what we can learn from Acts” by Beki Rogers

Pray together and read Acts 2: 32—42.

As you read the passage do you see the many expressions to what we would now describe as the Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit and also the use of “God” and “The Lord.”

Q1. As the early Church fathers of the 1st to 4th Centuries struggled to counter various heresies and to understand these concepts of God, what one word (perhaps we can stretch to two if you use a hyphen) would you use?

Q2. There does not seem to be any evidence of the early Christian communities which we read about in Acts or in the letters of Paul, Peter or John wrestling with this “Trinity” concept, why may that be? Does that fact help us today?

During Peter’s preaching the cry comes from the crowd, “what should we do?” (verse 37). Peter’s reply is emphatic and impassioned. Read again carefully the actions that Peter replies to the crowd in verses 38 and 39. Notice the progression, the conditional phrase “so that” and the beautiful and reassuring “for the promise is for you...”

Q3. Is the church of today, your church, as clear as Peter in the answer to life’s problems being Jesus and a release from the cares and concerns (captivity?) of this world? If not why do you think that is?

The early church had what can only be described as an intense sense of family and community and possessed a very strong desire to learn, see verse 42 for an amazing all-encompassing description of what the church should/could be.

Q4. What encourages/discourages you by reading this verse as you consider your own experience of church?

John 15 is very helpful in considering our personal relationship to God and that which we express through our relationships with other believers and then to God, as is John’s letter, “so that you may have fellowship with us and truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus” 1 John 1:3.

Q5. Do you see any links between the divine and perfect relationship of Father, Son and Spirit, One yet Three, perfect unity and harmony and our very imperfect relationships with one another?

Q6. What are the things that prevent the Church and us as its members living out this perfect picture of relationships and family with one another?

The idea of the Church as a perfect family is very attractive, especially in this day and age when so many people’s (but not all) experience of family is hurtful, damaged and needing reconciliation or sadly non-existent. As we conclude, what prayers do you bring, what relationships do you offer up to God asking for healing, reconciliation, unity and harmony.