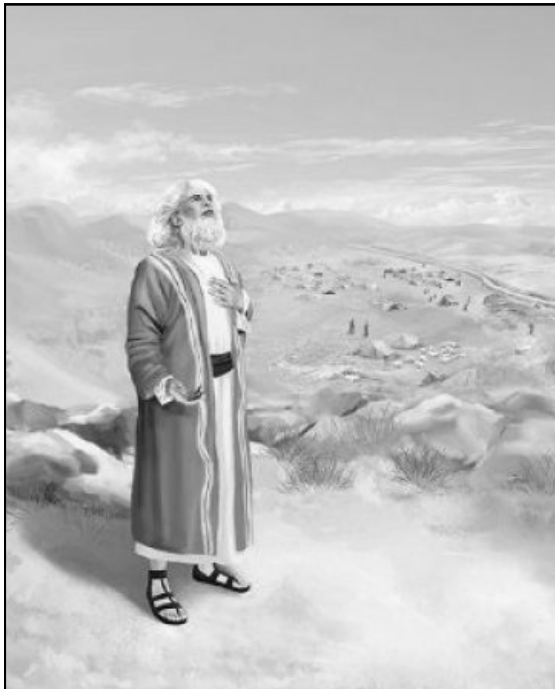


WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE BLESSED TRINITY



NOW THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, “GO FROM YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR KINDRED AND YOUR FATHER’S HOUSE TO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU. I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, SO THAT YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND THE ONE WHO CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED

Genesis 12:1-3

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

ABSTRACT KNOWLEDGE VS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE

- There are many things we can know **about** a person - characteristics, actions
 - By reason and by observing nature, we can know many things **about** God
 - Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, transcendent, eternal
- We can't truly know **who** someone is (mind and heart), unless they tell us
 - God doesn't want us to only know things **about** Him
 - **God has revealed Himself so that we can know Him personally**

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

[THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE] IS ACCOMPLISHED, GRADUALLY, BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE DIVINE PEDAGOGY WITH WHICH GOD REVEALED HIMSELF PROGRESSIVELY AND GRADUALLY.

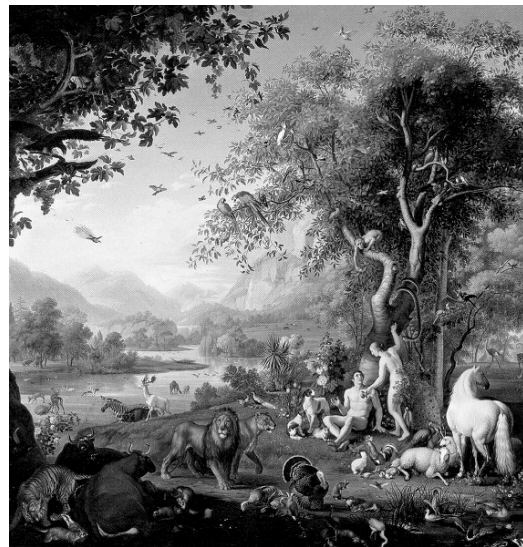
General Directory for Catechesis, 112

CREATION

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF ADAM AND EVE

- ▶ Genesis 1 - God created... and saw that it was good
- ▶ Genesis 1:26 - Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness
- ▶ Genesis 3:8 - They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze
- ▶ Genesis 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel
- ▶ Genesis 3:21 - And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF NOAH

- Genesis 6:8 - Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord
- Genesis 9:1 - God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."
- Genesis 9:8-11 - God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you...I establish my covenant with you..."
- Genesis 9:16 - When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

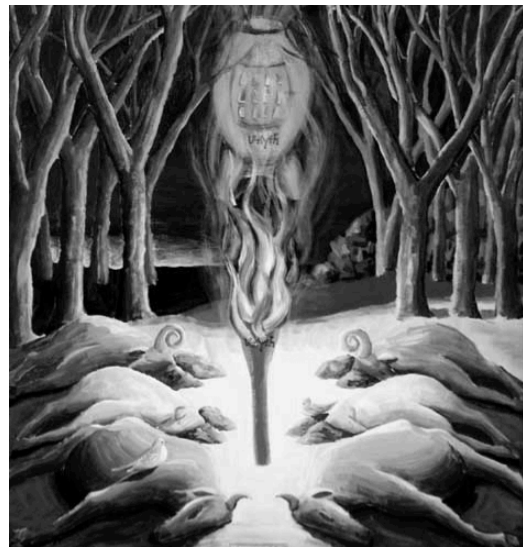
- God transcends number
- He creates good things and wants to recreate broken things
- He walked with humanity in paradise and in peace and harmony
- He sets in action a plan of salvation and covers shame
- He loves life and goodness
- He establishes covenants - or binding promises of relationship

PATRIARCHS

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM

- ▶ Genesis 15:7-10, 17-18 - [God] said to [Abram], "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But [Abram] said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" [God] said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." [Abram] brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two... When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

ABRAHAM'S MYSTERIOUS ENCOUNTER

- ▶ Genesis 18 - **The Lord** appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw **three men** standing near him. When he saw **them**, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "**My lord...**" ...So **they** said.... Then **the men set out** from there, and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. **The Lord** said...



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF ISAAC

- ▶ Genesis 22:6-8 - Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF JACOB

- ▶ Genesis 28:12-15 - [Jacob] dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him, and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you"



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

- ▶ God transcends number
- ▶ He makes solemn promises and is sure to keep them
- ▶ He does not delight in death but desires life
- ▶ His care for People crosses generations
- ▶ He loves life and goodness
- ▶ He is not like other gods

EXODUS

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF MOSES

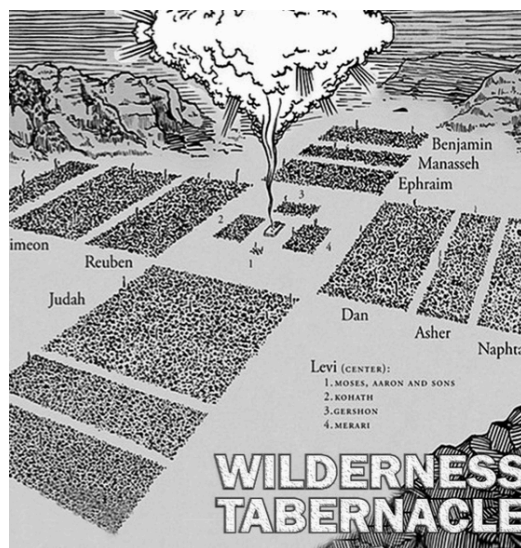
- ▶ Exodus 3:13-14 - Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"
- ▶ Exodus 15:1-2 - Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."
- ▶ Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE LOVING GOD OF THE ISRAELITES

- ▶ Deuteronomy 4:1,7-8 - And now, O Israel, give heed to the statutes and the ordinances which I teach you, and do them; that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, gives you... For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

- ▶ God is the One who IS
- ▶ He cares about People who are broken, hurting, and enslaved
- ▶ He is not like other gods - He is the only One with true Power
- ▶ He alone is worthy of worship
- ▶ He must reveal the proper way to worship Him
- ▶ He is willing to be known

KINGDOM

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE GOD OF DAVID

- 1 Samuel 16:10-13 - Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

- ▶ 1 Samuel 13:14 - The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart; and the Lord has appointed him to be ruler over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.
- ▶ 1 Samuel 17:26 - David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
- ▶ 2 Samuel 6:12-15 - David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

- ▶ God chooses the lowly and marginalized
- ▶ He lifts up the weak and empowers people to do His Will
- ▶ He has a heart that can be known and imitated
- ▶ He has a Spirit that can be given to others
- ▶ He is Holy and desires righteousness in His creation
- ▶ He rejoices at right worship and wants us to be in relationship with Him

WISDOM

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

A SON OF GOD & UNIVERSAL SAVIOR KING

- ▶ Psalm 2:7-9 - I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
- ▶ Psalm 89:25-29 - I will set David's hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation." And I will make him the first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth. My merciful love I will keep forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his line forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.
- ▶ Psalm 110:1-4 - The Lord says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool." The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes! Yours is dominion on the day you lead your host in holy splendor. From the womb of the morning I begot you. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

WISDOM PERSONIFIED

- ▶ Proverbs 1:20-21 - Wisdom cries aloud in the tree; in the markets she raises her voice; on the top of the walls she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks...
- ▶ Proverbs 2:6 - The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding
- ▶ Proverbs 3:19-20 - The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke forth, and the clouds drop down dew.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

- ▶ David is chosen, special, and set apart, a son of God
- ▶ David's sons will rule forever
- ▶ David's sons will have universal sovereignty
- ▶ Wisdom is something distinct from God
- ▶ God created through His Wisdom
- ▶ God wants to give us His Wisdom so that it might dwell in us

PROPHETS

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

ISAIAH: A BABE SHALL BE BORN

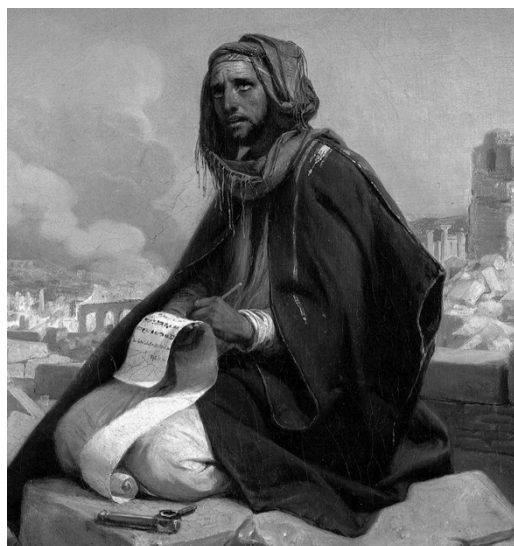
- ▶ Isaiah 7:14-15 – The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.
- ▶ Isaiah 9:1-2,6 - In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a greet light... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

JEREMIAH: A NEW COVENANT IS COMING

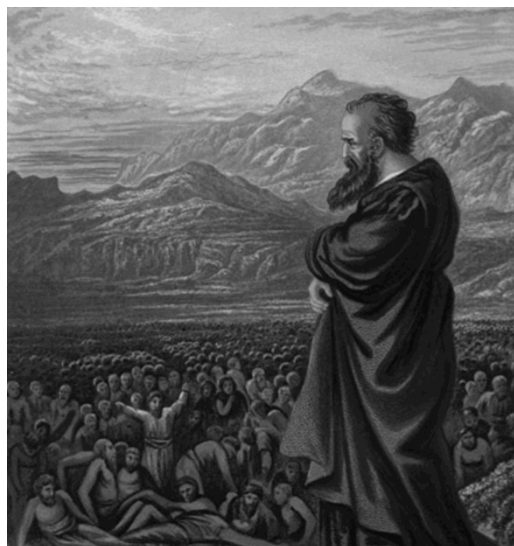
- ▶ Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

EZEKIEL: NEW LIFE IN GOD

- ▶ Ezekiel 34:11 - Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out
- ▶ Ezekiel 34:23 - I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them
- ▶ Ezekiel 36:25-27 - I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you... and cause you to walk in my statutes



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

SUMMARY

- ▶ The prophets foretell a Savior who will dwell with His People
- ▶ He will bring light to everyone, including Gentiles
- ▶ He will be called God-with-us, Mighty God, etc.
- ▶ God Himself will be a shepherd to His People but He will also have David shepherd the People forever
- ▶ He will put His Law within their hearts
- ▶ God will create a new covenant and put His Spirit in His People

JESUS

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

JESUS' ORIGIN IS MYSTERIOUS

- ▶ John 1:1-4 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- ▶ Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Luke 2:8-14 - An angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come all all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

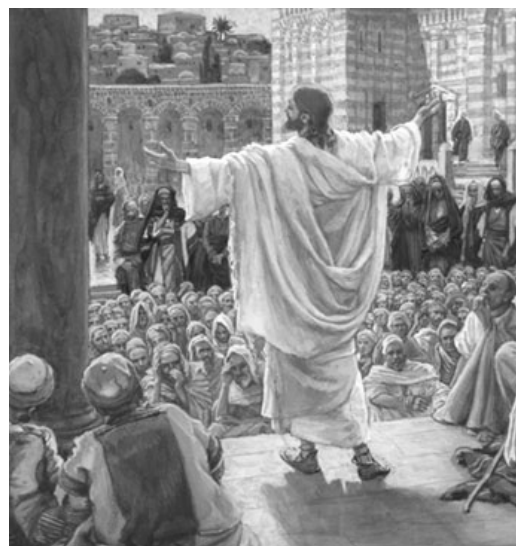
JESUS DOES GOD THINGS

- ▶ Mark 1:23-26 - Immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.
- ▶ Mark 2:10-12 - Jesus said, "That you may know that the Son of man has authority to forgive sins" - he said to the paralytic - "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet.
- ▶ Mark 3:1-5: Again Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. And they watched him, to see whether he would heal him on the sabbath... Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.
- ▶ Mark 4:37,39 - A great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling... And Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.
- ▶ Mark 5:21-43: While Jesus was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ...Jesus said to them, "Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ...Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi"; which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and walked.
- ▶ Mark 9:2-8: Jesus was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them... And a cloud overshadowed them, and voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him."

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

JESUS SAYS CONFUSING THINGS

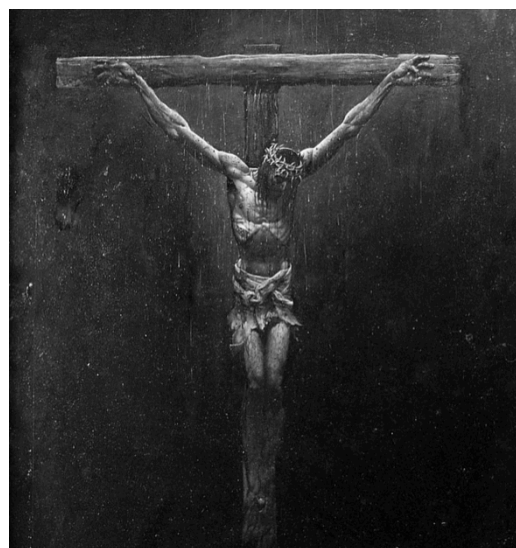
- ▶ John 4:13-14 - Jesus said to the woman at the well, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
- ▶ John 6:53 - Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."
- ▶ John 8:58 - Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."
- ▶ John 14:6 - Jesus said to them, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me."



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

JESUS DIES FOR US

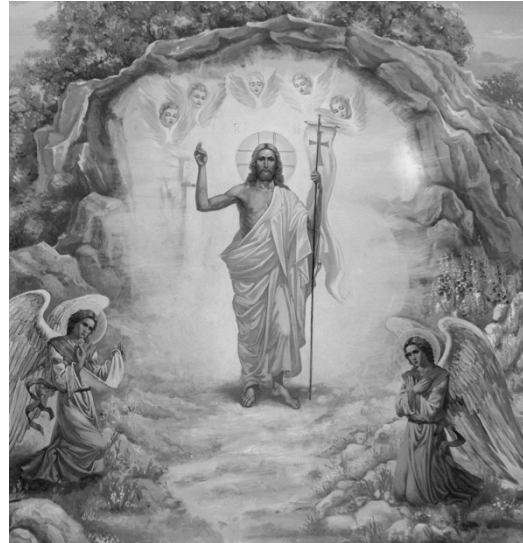
- ▶ Luke 22:14-20 - Jesus said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ...And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the chalice after supper, saying, "This chalice which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."
- ▶ Mark 15:37-39 - Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

- ▶ Mark 16:5-8 - As the women entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

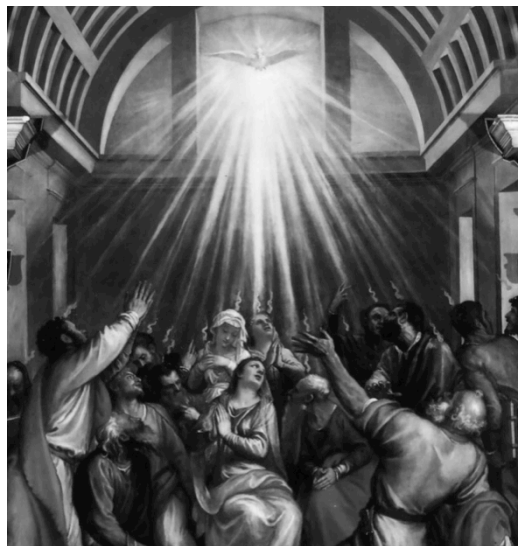


PENTECOST

WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

THE DISCIPLES DO GOD THINGS

- ▶ Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
- ▶ Acts 5:15-16 - The people carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them... and they were all healed



WHO GOD IS - LOVE REVEALS HIMSELF

NEW LIFE IN GOD THROUGH JESUS

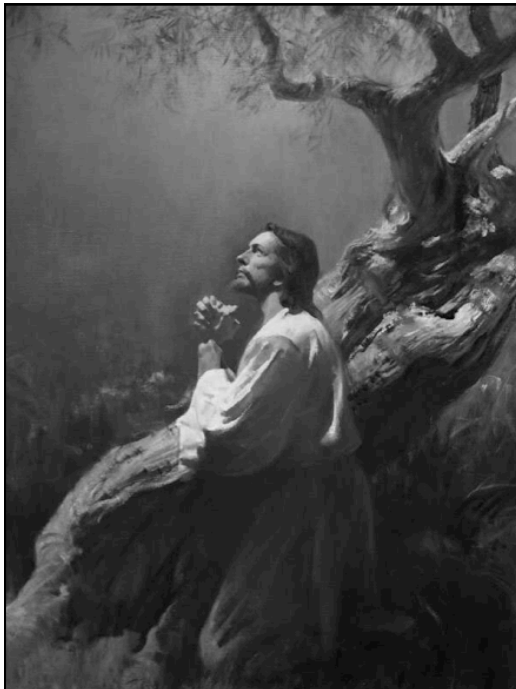
- ▶ Romans 8:13-17 - If you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ –if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



GOD IS REAL - HOW WE KNOW

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ▶ What stands out to you today about God's self-revelation?
- ▶ God is speaking to you, what do you hear? Is there a word or phrase from the passages that stands out to you?
- ▶ How does God show His Love in the Old Testament?
- ▶ What is your favorite thing that Jesus did during His life before the resurrection?
- ▶ How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- ▶ How would you explain the Trinity after today's reflection?



**I BELIEVE IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, BORN OF THE FATHER
BEFORE ALL AGES. GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT FROM
LIGHT, TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN, NOT
MADE, CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER;
THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE.**

Nicene Creed

