



24-7 SPACES

LENT 2012

WALK WITH US

week 3

JESUS HOME

**use this deeper guide alone, with
family or friends or your
church small group**

40 DAYS. 5 MINUTES. 1 GOSPEL.

CONTENTS

1. **Reflect:** thinking time
2. **React:** Journaling or discussion
3. **Respond:** get practical

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A Bible
- Film: 'UP' (2009)

REFLECT:

Use the following Bible passage, song lyrics, Icon and quotes for reflection.

Start by Reading John: 4:43 - 5:47

Trinity Icon (Andrei Rublev)



*"The lights go out and I can't be saved
Tides that I tried to swim against
Have brought me down upon my knees
Oh I beg, I beg and plead, singing...."*

*Home, home, where I wanted to go
Home, home, where I wanted to go
Home, home, where I wanted to go (You are)
Home, home, where I wanted to go (You are)"*

- Coldplay - Clocks

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

— Jean Vanier, *Community And Growth*

"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." - Maya Angelou

"Thoughts tumbled over each other as Mack struggled to figure out what to do. Was one of these people God? What if they were hallucinations or angels, or God was coming later? That could be embarrassing. Since there were three of them, maybe this was a Trinity sort of thing. But two women and a man and none of them white? He knew his mind was rambling so he focused on the one question he most wanted answered.

"Then," Mack struggled to ask, "which one of you is God?"

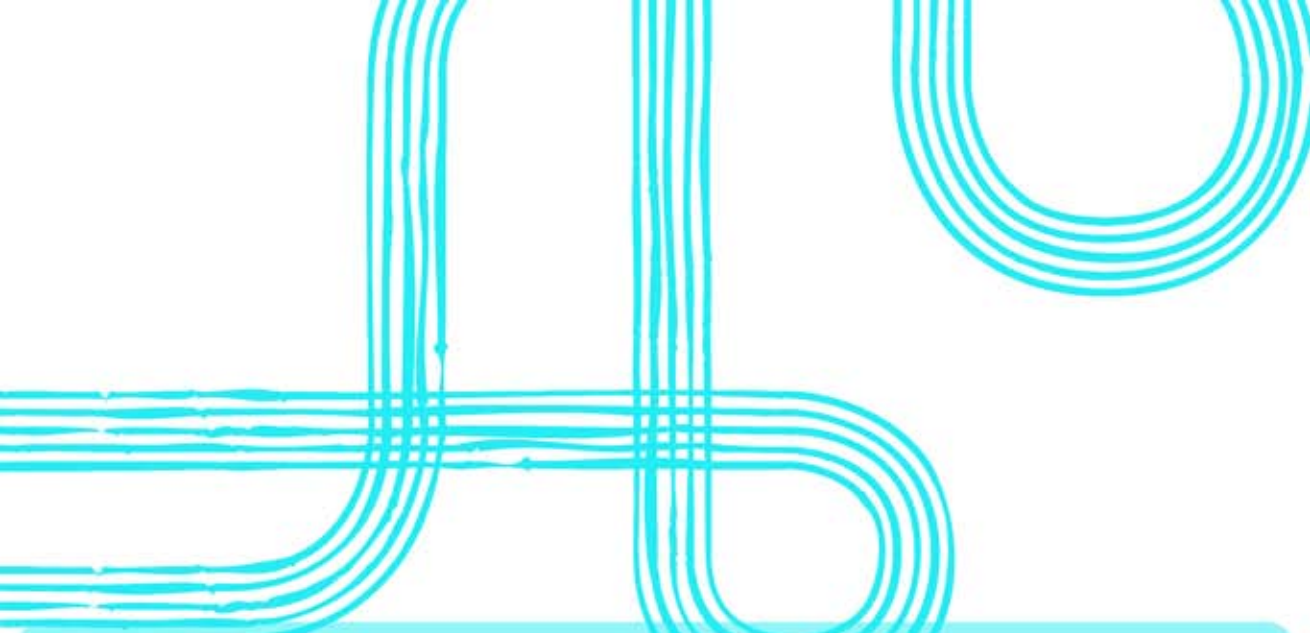
"I am" said all three in unison. Mack looked from one to the next, and even though he couldn't begin to grasp what he was seeing and hearing, he somehow believed them. "

"All love and relationship is possible for you only because it already exists within me, with God myself."

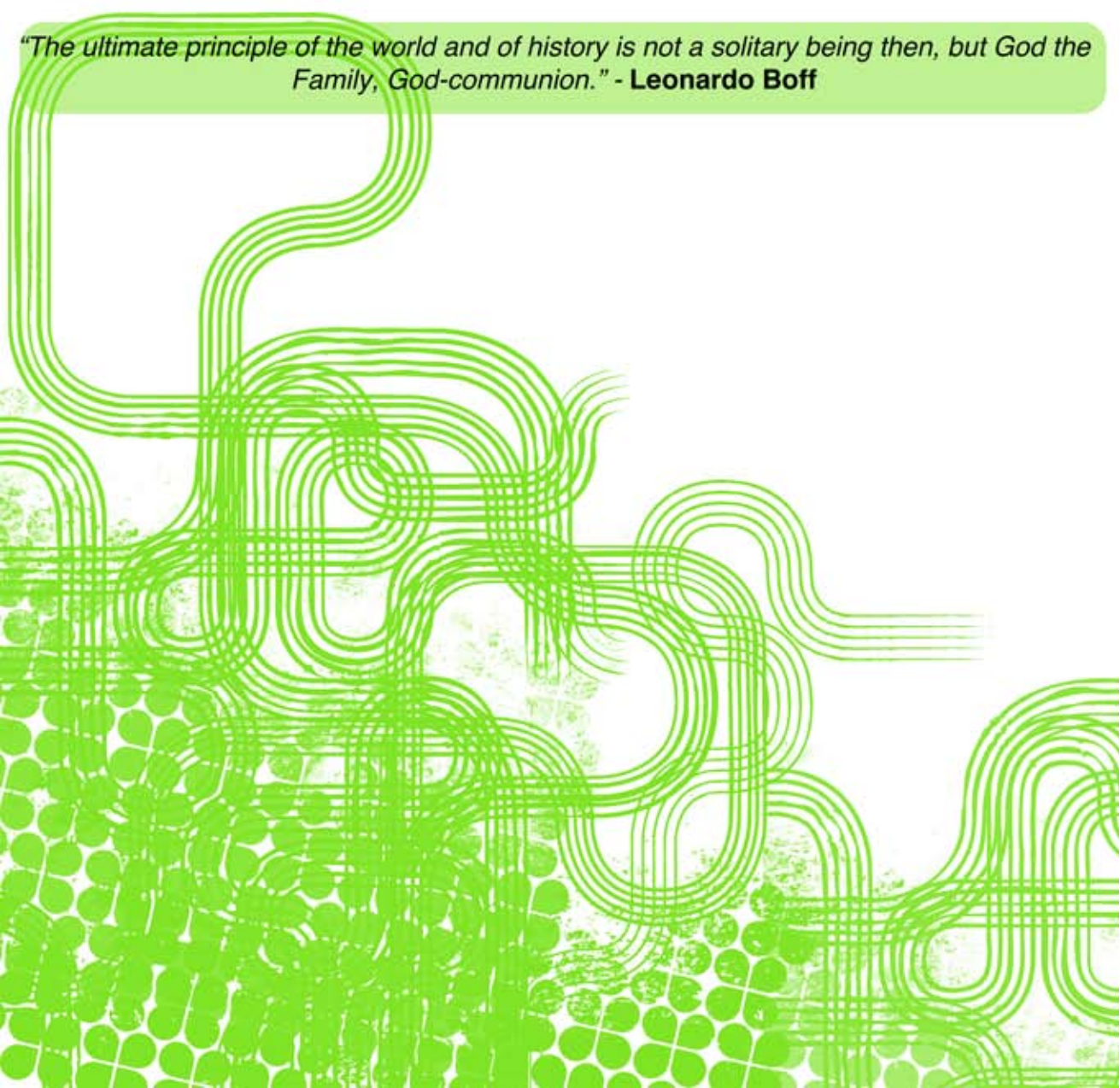
""Does that mean," asked Mack, "that all roads will lead to you?"

"Not at all," smiled Jesus as he reached for the door handle to the shop. "Most roads don't lead anywhere. What it does mean is that I will travel any road to find you.""

- William P. Young, *The Shack*



"The divine modes of existence condition and permeate one another mutually with such perfection that one is invariably in the other two, as the other two are in one." - **Karl Barth**



"The ultimate principle of the world and of history is not a solitary being then, but God the Family, God-communion." - **Leonardo Boff**

REACT:

(1) Read John 5:2-9. Consider how this sick/invalid man was searching and seeking healing and restoration. This pool was seen by pagans as a sacred site, a shrine. The waters bubbled up periodically and the belief was that the first person to get in when this happened would be healed. This man had been there a long time with hopes to be healed. When Jesus approaches he offers 'true healing.' He offers in a moment what this man had been waiting thirty-eight years for.

Consider those in our world who are searching and seeking. Think about how Jesus travelled to find this man on his path of seeking. What are the paths people are on seeking and searching in our world today? How does Jesus want to reach people on the paths they are on and offer 'true' hope, healing and home?

(2) Read John 5:19- 21 and reflect on the relationship of the Trinity. Meditate on how Jesus "...cannot do anything on His own. He can do only what He sees the Father doing..." Consider this relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus' life reflected this relationship and unity with the Father; everything He did was in the context of relationship. Where is God working in the World around you? How can you join in with what He's already doing (as Jesus did)?

(3) Consider the nature of God as Trinity, a family, a community and Boff's quote that "the ultimate principle of the world... is God the Family, God-communion" Ponder that the whole of the universe revolves around God being family. Think about this as a model for how Society could operate? Think about the systems of society, 'the family', 'the education system', 'the criminal justice system'. What ways do these systems currently operate in a way counter to this principle? What would it look like if these systems revolved around a trinitarian/family model?

(4) Ponder the quotes by Jean Vanier and Karl Barth. Consider the Trinity as a model for community. Think about how the Trinity operates, where each part permeates the others, so it's difficult to tell them apart. How can we live out the Trinity as a way of life to counter the culture of individualism in our Society and in a way which invites people in?

(5) Reflect on the lyrics from Coldplay's song 'Clocks' and on Maya Angelou's quote. There is a longing in all of us for home, for family, for true community. Loneliness is highly prevalent in our society, many people live alone. We feed this loneliness when we have an agenda or goal in what we do that is something other than relationship. How can we create genuine places of home and community that mirror the relational nature of God?

RESPOND:

1. Personal:

What are some areas in your life where you experience loneliness?

How does the Trinity nature of God impact the way you live your life, experience God, family, friends, etc. and live out God's mission?

How do you best experience Christian community in your day-to-day life?

2. Practical:

Take an issue of injustice and respond to it with a relational/family model. You could buy groceries for someone who is struggling to make ends meet, offer to help kids from a deprived area with their homework or take them out to the cinema.

Invite someone you know who is lonely around for a meal. Spend time getting to know them and find ways to include them in your life.

Watch the film "UP" - Allow it to speak to you about relationships and home.

3. Prayerful:

Use the following prayer of ST. Patrick this week.

"I bind onto myself, the name, the strong name of the Trinity, by the invocation of the same, the 3 in 1, the 1 in 3, of whom all nature has creation - Eternal Father, Spirit, Lord."

ST. PATRICKS' BREASTPLATE

NEXT WEEK...

JESUS: REST

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