

## What sort of God?

*Don't try to do everything on the sheet! Find a few things that you think your group will find helpful.*

Some people object that god, if he exists, cannot be worthy of worship because he allows evil and suffering to continue - do you think this objection has any force? If so why? - or why not?

If someone made that objection to you do you think that you would be able to give a response? what would it be?

Adriaan contrasted a 'singular' god with the Trinitarian God that is revealed in the Bible - can you remember some of the principle differences that he mentioned - and can you remember how these led to different reasons for creating the world and man - and how each of the different sorts of God were likely to respond when man rebelled?

It might be useful to discuss your understanding of the Trinity - can you see how vital a doctrine it is? And how amazing! - was there anything on Sunday that helped you to see the Trinity in a new light?

Felix said that in creating man God was inviting other beings to join in the eternal dance that has been going on between the members of the god-head - doesn't this sound like a totally awesome invitation! How could heaven be boring when it is spent in the company of such a loving, giving, life bringing and endlessly creative God!

Look at Isaiah chapter 53. Could you have ever imagined that the creator God would be willing to come and live and suffer and die in this way? Can you remember some of the ways that Adriaan said that the fact that Jesus did go through all this can help us when we are going through times of trials?

Adriaan said that we could know that we can trust God - even though we might have many unanswered questions - because he was willing to come right alongside us in our sufferings and share them with us - and he illustrated this with a very far-fetched illustration about a doctor giving his own kidney to save a patient. Can you think of a better illustration - please pass it to him if you can!

Think about the fact that on the cross Jesus took ALL our grief and sorrow, ALL our iniquities and sins. Jesus didn't sip at the cup of suffering - he drank the cup dry - every last drop - as Jesus hung there on the cross he took all our sin and pain - the whole lot - he took on himself the whole consequence of Adam's sin - he was crushed for our iniquities - he paid the whole price

It's easy for us to skim over these verses sometime because they are very familiar - take some time to consider what it cost God to do this - think about the price that God willing paid so that we could be restored to relationship with Him. Give thanks for his amazing goodness and love.

The God that we worship isn't the sort of God who would sit by and do nothing in the face of evil and suffering - he isn't the sort of God who would get caught out and have to come and take remedial action - he is the sort of God who knew how heavy a price would have to be paid - but the end he had in mind was so glorious - so unspeakably amazing - that he was prepared to pay it personally

let your mind and heart expand as you think about this amazing, triune, loving, giving, life bringing God - this God who loved you so much that he came - this God that so wanted you to share in his life and love - that far from sitting indifferently on the sidelines, gave everything - he gave himself for you - this is the sort of God that the Bible describes - and this God is so worthy of our worship our love and our adoration