

Genesis and the Blessed Trinity

Name: _____

Read the Scripture passages and the reflection. Then complete the discussion question with a partner.

Gen 1:26

1 ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

1 ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Gen 1:1-3

Jn 1:1-3, 14

1 ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him. . . .

⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father.

Reflection

The first passage is mysterious. Why does the one true God refer to himself in the *plural* “us”? This chapter, our textbook gave an answer to this question: Genesis is hinting at the Blessed Trinity. Within the oneness of God, there are *three* Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John makes this connection between Genesis and the Trinity in his own Gospel. Take a few seconds and compare the second and third passages.

Notice how both start with “in the beginning.” John also focuses on a detail from Genesis 1: God creates through “speaking,” for instance, “*God said*, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (emphasis added). God speaks, and something is made. In the language of John, God creates through *his Word*.

John notices that God’s Word exists with God before anything is created. For this reason, John says that God’s Word is one with God: “The Word was *with God*, and the Word *was God*” (1:1; emphasis added). John identifies Jesus as the Incarnation (becoming flesh) of God’s Word.

There was another Person present at the beginning with God and God’s Word: the Spirit of God. Before God created anything through his Word, the Spirit of God was “moving over the face of the waters” (Gen 1:2). God (the Father), God’s Word (the Son), and God’s Spirit (the Holy Spirit)—all were present before anything was created.

Discussion Question

Saint Augustine said, “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.”¹

How might this idea relate to the Scripture passages at the beginning of the worksheet?

Answers may include God created through speaking in Genesis;
in John’s Gospel, it says all things were created through God’s Word;
and John reveals that in Jesus we have the dawn of a new creation.

¹ Saint Augustine, *Quaest. in Hept.* 2, 73, quoted in CCC 129; cf. *Dei Verbum*, 16.