

# The Godhead



Week Ten

## inTro



Read This Week's Passage:  
John 14:1-24

### THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD

The Millerites held a wide variety of beliefs about the Godhead in the 1840s. William Miller believed in the Trinity while his close assistant Joshua Himes and church founders James White and Joseph Bates rejected trinitarian teachings as unscriptural. Many early Adventists believed Jesus was created or begotten and denied the personhood of the Holy Spirit. They didn't prioritize this doctrine as the focus was on the sanctuary and the Second Coming. Prominent pioneers are sometimes quoted today to support a particular belief about the Godhead, but it's important to remember that views on this subject varied greatly among the first Adventists. It took the church over seventy years of Bible study and prayer to reach a conclusion on this issue, in part because of our unshakeable commitment to the *whole* Bible. This means the entire Bible must be considered when establishing new doctrines or teachings.

The 1888 GC session revived our beliefs about Jesus and the gospel, which resulted in deeper study of Christ's divinity. A.T. Jones became an early proponent of Jesus' divine nature and Ellen White's book *The Desire of Ages* made definitive statements regarding both the Holy Spirit's personhood and Christ's divinity, saying Jesus "announced Himself to be the self-existent one" and "in Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived" ([1898], 469, 530). Our church didn't adopt an official stance on this subject until the 1930s. This week's study explores how the Bible clearly shows that there are three Persons in the Godhead, all working together with different roles and functions.

Handwriting practice grid consisting of 20 rows of dotted lines on a light gray background.



## inScribe

Write out John 14:1–24 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What can we do to ensure that we study the Bible holistically and not selectively on any given subject?

What are the differences between Jesus and the Holy Spirit? What are the similarities?



Read more at [www.inversebible.org/SDAH10-3](http://www.inversebible.org/SDAH10-3)



## inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What are some ways we can interact with each Member of the Godhead?



Read more at  
[www.inverseible.org/SDAH10-4](http://www.inverseible.org/SDAH10-4)

The Godhead



What relationship do the following verses have with John 14:1–24?

The oneness of God:

- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Isaiah 46:9, 10

The triune God:

- Genesis 1:26
- Matthew 3:16, 17
- Matthew 28:19, 20
- Hebrews 9:14

Divinity of Jesus:

- Isaiah 9:6
- Micah 5:2
- John 1:1–3, 14
- Hebrews 1:8, 9

The Holy Spirit:

- Matthew 12:31, 32
- John 15:26, 27
- John 16:5–15



What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from John 14:1–24.



Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



In what other instances do we see Jesus confident in His identity and the role He plays in the Godhead?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:



Read more at  
[www.inverseible.org/SDAH10-6](http://www.inverseible.org/SDAH10-6)





## inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



To what extent can we comprehend God's nature and to what extent will this topic remain a mystery?

How can we be open to God's leading when we need to unlearn and relearn certain things? How can we be sure it's really God who's leading us?

How can we reconcile the oneness and plurality of God?

What can we learn from Jesus' relationship with His Father in John 14?

What can we know about the role and personality of the Holy Spirit from John 14?

What does John 14 teach us about the kind of relationship God desires to have with us?

What holds us back from depending less on our own power and relying more on the Holy Spirit's power?