



WEEK 3 - JESUS AND NICODEMUS

OVERVIEW

John 3:16 is easily the most famous New Testament passage today. It is plastered on highway signs and held up at sporting events. But what was Jesus trying to communicate when he spoke it? How does it fit into the surrounding conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus the Pharisee? As we explore this challenging and provocative passage, we will yet again be presented with an all-or-nothing decision: will we walk in the light of Christ, or choose to love the darkness instead?

God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

John 3:19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Barry talks about recognizing in his younger years that he was playing a lot of video games and spending a lot of time at his friend Andy's house - living like a zombie in a haze, living for self. He realized there must be more to life than that. What is (or was) your "Andy's house"? What is that place or activity you continue to go to, even though it might not be bringing you true life?
2. Read [John 3:1-8](#). What does it mean when Jesus says, "you must be born again"?
3. Why does Jesus refer back to the Old Testament in [John 3:9-15](#) when he is speaking with Nicodemus? (Barry mentions the reference to Daniel 7 "son of man", [Numbers 21:8](#) NRSV, and [Isaiah 52:13](#) NRSV). How does Jesus use these references to explain what will happen to him?
4. Barry points out that in [John 3:16](#), the word translated as "perish", *apollymi*, is defined as "to destroy, lose, ruin, bring to nothing, perish". What does this word mean to you in the context of John 3:16? Does this change the way you see the passage?
5. As the questions ask in the overview: what was Jesus trying to communicate when he spoke John 3:16? How does this fit into the surrounding conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus?
6. Is there "more to life than this"? What does the "more" mean to you? What is the "true life" Barry refers to in this message?
7. Barry said that "True life requires a new beginning. That new beginning requires belief. Belief requires surrender". How would you explain this to someone in your own words?

RESOURCES

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