

Central Church of Christ
POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
John



A PERIOD OF DISRUPTION
The Border of Understanding
John 3:1-21 || July 12, 2026

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here!

We know visiting a church for the first time can feel intimidating.

Our goal is to help you feel at home and **point you to Jesus**.

Here's **what to expect** in our worship today:

We sing acappella (voices only), take the Lord's Supper, offer prayers, and listen to a message from the Bible. **You are welcome to participate with us as** much as you are comfortable.

After worship concludes, we offer **Bible classes for all ages**.

You're welcome to stay and join whichever class fits you best.

central
KIDS

Before the sermon, **children ages 2-7** are invited to a special time called **Wee Worship**, where they can enjoy Bible stories, songs, and age-appropriate activities in a safe, welcoming environment.

July 12: Sometimes we get so busy we lose Jesus.

Lesson Text: Luke 2:41-52

For those 8 years old and above, **complete the fill in blanks** in this handout and show the preacher or one of the elders for a special treat or TWO Bible Bucks to spend at Central Park.

SERVICE ORDER

July 12, 2026

Announcements

Call to Worship

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The Joy of the Lord

Prayer

Boundless Love

Steve Griggs

Steve Griggs

David Byerly

David Byerly

Parker Shepherd

Ross Jordan

Prepare For Communion

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Communion Prayers

I'm All Wrapped Up

Children's Chat

Scripture Reading - John 3:13-21

The Greatest Commands

Sermon

Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone

Shepherd's Moment

John Cox

Ross Jordan

Aidan Smith

Aidan & Josh

Rhett Stanley

John Cox

Shane Robinson

Andrew Boone

George Brock

GREETERS

Terry & Virginia Ensley, Jennifer & Sophie Robinson

NURSERY

Patti Waycaster & Leigh Ellen Griggs

WEE WORSHIP

Rachel Edwards, Lauren Smith, Vince & Theary Boling

SERVE COMMUNION

Chris Akers, Richard Milburn, Scott Shepherd, Jeff Shepherd, Carter Pendley, Mark Stanley, Chris Smith, Danny Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:13-21, NKJV

“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.””

The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982.



KEY WORDS

John 3:1-21

Born Again (anōthen), vv. 3, 7. An adverb that means both “again” and “from above.” Nicodemus hears the first meaning and imagines a second physical birth. But Jesus is talking about a birth that comes from above, from God Himself.

Spirit (pneuma), vv. 5-8. One word that means Spirit, wind, and breath. Jesus builds His illustration on the word itself. You cannot see the wind, but you can see what it does. The same is true of everyone born of the Spirit.

Lifted Up (hypsoō), v. 14. To raise on high, or to exalt. John uses both senses at once. The Son of Man will be lifted up on a cross, and that lifting is also His exaltation.

Perish (apollymi), v. 16. To be lost, ruined, or destroyed. To perish is not to vanish. It is to be lost, cut off from the life God made us for. It is the alternative to everlasting life.

Condemned (krinō), vv. 17-18. To judge or pass sentence. The Son did not come to hand down a verdict but to save. Yet the verdict still falls, because refusing the Son is its own sentence.

Exposed (elenchō), v. 20. To bring to light and convict. The word pictures what light does to hidden things. It shows them for what they are, which is why evil deeds stay in the dark.

For more study materials, visit ccocdalton.org/john

THE BORDER OF UNDERSTANDING

John 3:1-21 || July 12, 2026

Nicodemus had credentials. He was a ruler of the Jews and the teacher of Israel. Yet, he still came to Jesus with questions. Jesus did not hand him another lesson to master. Jesus offered him something no amount of study could produce.

What We Know About Nicodemus

John 3:1-2 || The Credentials

He was an _____ person (3:1, 10). He was a ruler of the Jews and the teacher of Israel (cp. 7:50-51).

He was the one who _____ Jesus (3:2). He sought out the Light of the World (1:9; 8:12).

He knew something was _____ about Jesus (3:2). He was possibly among those who believed after seeing the signs (cp. 2:23; 19:38-42).

What Jesus Knew About Nicodemus

John 3:19-21 || The Condition

Dark deeds (3:19). Jesus knew people love darkness because their deeds are _____ (1:5).

Fear and shame (3:20). Jesus knew people hide from the light so their deeds won't be _____ (Gen. 3:8-10).

Clean conscience (3:21). Jesus knew a clean conscience comes only to those who do the truth and come to the _____ (Ac. 23:1).

What Jesus Wanted For Nicodemus

John 3:3-21 || The Cure

_____ (3:3-8). Jesus wanted him to receive the new heart and new Spirit God had promised (Ezek. 36:26-27; 37:14).

_____ (3:9-15). Jesus wanted him to look in faith to the Son lifted up, just as Israel looked to the bronze serpent and lived (Num. 21:8-9).

_____ (3:16-21). Jesus wanted him to be part of God's plan to restore all that sin had broken (Gen. 3; Ac. 3:21).

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

John did not write this so that we would know more 'about' Jesus.

He wrote it so that we would 'know' Jesus. Jesus knows you and wants you to know Him.

Spirit: New birth begins in the water.

Jesus said no one enters the kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit (3:5). Baptism is not my work. It is where I surrender and God gives new life (Titus 3:5; cp. 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Light: I walk in the light I was born into.

New birth is not the end. It is the beginning. Those who do the truth keep coming to the light, and their lives show that God is at work in them (3:21; 1 Jn. 1:7; cp. Gen. 33:10; Lk. 15:20).

Son: Looking to Jesus is how I live.

Israel looked to the serpent and lived. I look to the Son lifted up and live forever. God did not send Jesus to condemn me but to save me (3:15-17).

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Assembly Times

AM Worship

Sundays @ 9:30 AM

Sun Bible Classes

Immediately After Worship

Wed Night Meal

Will start back in September

Wed Bible Classes

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Reoccurring Events

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday @ 10:30 AM

LIFE Groups

Various times & locations
(Visit our website)

Food & Clothing

Tues & Thurs 10 AM-12 PM
(Go to office area)



CENTRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST II SUN. @9:30am WED. @6:30pm
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