

“For God So Loved” • John 3:9-16
Mt. Lassen Community Church • January 18, 2026

Discuss • Nicodemus is supposed to be the expert on all matters of religion, but doesn't understand Jesus. Put yourself in Nic's sandals. Describe the pressure you'd be under. How would you probably react?

3:9-10 • Nic doesn't understand being “born again” because, in Judaism, children were seen as being _____

And Nic doesn't understand a “spiritual wind,” because in Judaism, salvation was through _____

Vs 11-13 • Jesus is the only one “from heaven.” He is the only one we should be getting our spiritual truth from!

Vs 14-16 • “John 3:16” is connected to a strange story from the OT →

Numbers 21:4 • The people are in the 40-year wilderness journey with Moses, but they are complaining—about everything!

Discuss • What is the lesson here? What is the key in “walking in the wilderness”?

Vs 5 • They can't enjoy God's blessings and want to go back to Egypt

Vs 6-7 • God send fiery snakes among them for judgment; some repent and call out to Moses for deliverance.

Vs 8-9 • One of the strangest passages in the Old Testament: *make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, and whoever looks upon it will live.* Very strange! But in Jesus, this event makes perfect sense →

John 3:14-15 • Just as Moses gave a means of salvation from the snakes, God gives rescue from the “snake of sin”—looking upon Jesus!

Discuss the parallels between Numbers 21 & John 3:15-16

→ What if like Moses' snake on a pole, the Cross of Jesus doesn't make sense? No worries! God isn't looking for expertise—He's looking for TRUST / BELIEF.

“God so loved...” • This is God's MOTIVATION for the Cross _____

“...the world” • the Gospel is a universal invitation to salvation. Let's never limit the scope or potential of God's message to save.

“...that He gave” • God loves, so He gave. We too should give as a response to His love for us. Giving is an act of worship unto God.

Principles of GIVING → _____

Discuss • Why is faithful, generous giving often so challenging? But also, how are we blessed as we give?

“...that whoever” • Again, God wants all to hear, believe, and be saved.

“...believes in Him” • Many define true “belief” as *following Jesus, obeying, growing, living a new life.* BUT—that's not the point of John 3:16! It is BELIEVE and be BORN AGAIN. Only then, after one is made alive in Christ, everything else will follow. _____

“...shall not perish but have everlasting life” • Finally: Eternal life is not just for the future—eternal life NOW, in knowing God (John 17:3).

