

Dear Life Group Leaders,

What a passage! There are some passages that can feel like a lot of work. Not this one. There's a good reason why John 3:16 is the most memorised, quoted and preached verse in the Bible. Take time to savour the beautiful truth in this passage. That God would give Jesus to save this world is a wonder. This is good news that we need to receive again for ourselves and share with those that haven't yet accepted it. Given these turbulent days we're living through, make sure you create space in your Life Group meeting to check in with how everyone is doing. Many will have been feeling anxious at the unfolding events in Ukraine. Take time to share this and pray for one another.

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy *(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Andy Tuck who is on the staff team of our Wimbledon venue)*

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 3:1-21

This Week's BIG IDEA: Jesus came to save the world.

Please read John 3:1-21

1. These verses detail a conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus. What do we learn about Nicodemus from this passage?
[Leaders note: look for the biographical details in v1 and v10. But you could also encourage your Life Group to explore the tone of Nicodemus' questions. Is there any significance in v2, that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?]
2. What's the gist of Nicodemus' first statement in v2? What do you think he would have understood by Jesus' answer in v3? What do you think Jesus means?
[Leaders note: v4 shows Nicodemus' confusion at Jesus' answer. The kingdom of God refers to God's saving rule. And Jesus talks more about being "born again" in the coming verses.]
3. How would Jesus' reply in v5-8 challenge beliefs that Nicodemus would have held?
[Leaders note: That we don't enter the kingdom because of our ancestry.]
4. v8, what do we learn about the Spirit in this verse? What could this look like in our church?
5. v14-15, what story is Jesus referring to here? What parallels can you see between this Old Testament story and the work of Jesus?
[Leaders note: see Numbers 21:4-9.]
6. How does the image of the snake on the pole make you more grateful for Jesus being "lifted up"?
[Leaders note: think about the implications for how we think about sin and our need of Jesus.]
7. For a bonus point, does anyone know what ended up happening to the bronze snake?
[Leaders note: see 2 Kings 18:4, King Hezekiah destroyed the snake because he found that people were worshipping it and treating it like an idol. The point is that the snake relic had no healing properties of its own, but it was a means of grace by which God offered mercy to his people.]
8. v16, what does this verse reveal about God's desire and purposes? What confidence does this give us when we consider the current state of our world?
9. v17-18, how are we saved? And what does this mean for those who don't believe in the Son?
10. v19-21, what choice do these verses present us with? How have you been guilty of loving darkness in your own life, or how have you seen that in someone else? How have you experienced Jesus' light shining into your darkness?
11. How would you use this passage to define what it means to be "born again"?
[Leaders note: if you don't, at some point, mention Jesus' death and resurrection in these definitions, then you're doing it wrong.]
12. Finish with a time of prayer. Pray for the courage, opportunities, wisdom and sensitivity to share this amazing good news with those we share our lives with, particularly in these dark times.