



the greatest gift



A Series on John 3:16

By: Art Rainer

Small Group Week 1:
For God So Loved the World

Sermon Text: John 3:16

DISCUSSION STARTER: What is your favorite Christmas season memory?

INTRODUCTION: We all have memories attached to the Christmas season. Some of those memories are filled with smiles and laughter. Some memories come with hurt and loneliness.

Fortunately, whether we have fond memories or not, we can find hope this Christmas season. John 3:16 provides a message of hope for us all. Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at one of the most famous Bible verses in the world and discuss what our response to it should be.

READ: John 3:1-21

QUESTION 1: John 3:16 is part of Jesus' response to Nicodemus. Who was Nicodemus and what was his question?

QUESTION 2: According to the sermon, "For God so loved the world" means that humans were facing a problem that only God could solve. What is this problem? In what ways do we act as if we can fix the problem? Where does this often lead us?

QUESTION 3: In an act of undeserving love, God stepped in to solve our problem. Our response to God's undeserving love should be to love others. What does it look like for us to undeservingly love others? What are some tangible actions you can take this Christmas to generously love others?

PRAYER: Pray that those in the group will remember the undeserving love God has given us, and, in turn, generously love others this Christmas.



Small Group Week 2:
That He Gave His One and Only Son

Sermon Text: John 3:16

DISCUSSION STARTER: What is your all-time favorite Christmas gift? How has your Christmas gift list changed over the years?

INTRODUCTION: This series has been about God's generous gift to us, and how we should respond in light of it. The Bible tells us that we are supposed to make sacrificial giving a priority. But God doesn't just tell us to do this. He leads by example through the giving and sacrificing of His Son.

READ: Numbers 21:4-8

QUESTION 1: Last week, we discussed our sin problem. The good news is that God provided the solution to our problem by sending Jesus. In John 3:14-15, why does Jesus point back to Numbers 21:4-8? Consider the audience.

QUESTION 2: Most give out of their abundance. They wait to give after all their bills have been paid and even several wants have been met. Is this sacrificial generosity? What would sacrificial generosity look like in your life?

QUESTION 3: In 2 Corinthians 9:7, it says that we are to be cheerful givers. Have you ever received a gift where the giver handed over the gift begrudgingly? If so, what was your reaction? If you have not experienced this, what would be your reaction? So why does God want cheerful givers?

QUESTION 4: How can we be cheerful when sacrificially giving?

PRAYER: Thank God for providing the solution to our sin problem. Thank God for the sacrifice of His one and only Son. Pray that God will help everyone in the group respond with open hands, ready to reflect God's sacrificial giving to others.



Small Group Week 3:

That Whoever Believes in Him Shall Not Perish But Have Eternal Life

Sermon Text: John 3:16

DISCUSSION STARTER: How does Christmas remind us that God made good on His promise?

INTRODUCTION: In nativity scenes, we see a baby lying in a manger. This certainly did occur. And yes, our hearts are warmed by the serene scene depicted but we can't stop there. There is more to Christmas than just a baby lying in a manger, we are looking at the victor who just stepped onto the battlefield.

READ: Mark 2:1-12

QUESTION 1: How does mark 2:1-12 demonstrate that Jesus was God?

QUESTION 2: How does Revelation 1:12-15 change our perception of the baby lying in the manger?

QUESTION 3: There is a promise in John 3:16. What is it? And, how does someone obtain it?

QUESTION 4: If you have accepted God's gift, it is our calling to make sure that everyone in our community has the chance to accept it as well. How can your generosity open doors to tell others about Jesus? How will your generosity look different this Christmas compared to last Christmas?

PRAYER: Thank God for making good on His promise. Pray that everyone in the group will consider how to live and give generously for the sake of God's Kingdom this year. Pray for boldness in proclaiming the good news this Christmas.





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