



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of December 19, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. These are intended to help spark discussion. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What aspect of your daily routine do you look forward to the most?
- How do you think people experience God's love today? How have you experienced God's love most recently?

The Context

Today, we continue to unpack Jesus' conversation in John Chapter 3 with a Pharisee religious leader, Nicodemus. In this conversation, Jesus tells this very religious man that he must be born again. Jesus' message to Nicodemus was that his religion, and all of his efforts to be good and do good things, weren't good enough to get him into God's Kingdom. Jesus points to what he will accomplish on the cross as the only means by which a person, regardless of who they are or what they have done, can enter the Kingdom of God. Our salvation is not dependent on what we do, but on what Jesus has already done for us. Being born again hinges on our belief that Jesus is the Son of God who has come into our world to pay the price for sin. No matter who we are or what we have done, Jesus tells us all that we must be born of water and the Spirit. Good people and bad people must be born again. Religious people and lost people must be born again. All people must be born again. In today's section, we find out how this has become possible: through faith and the love of God.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 3:14-21 NIV

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."

Discuss

1. In your own words, what is the overall message of this passage?
2. What is God's motive for salvation? What does this tell us about God and his attitude towards man? Verse 16.
3. To whom is He offering salvation? verses 16-17
4. Who is the sacrificial offering that provides salvation? Verse 16

5. Why did God send His Son into the world? verse 17. What is the state of the world without Jesus? What does it mean to be condemned?
6. When you realize that Jesus came to die and that God gave him for that purpose, how does that help you understand God's love for man? In what way does that help you understand God's love for you individually?
7. What does the Bible tell us about God and his love ([1 John 4:7-21](#))? Based on God's love for us, how should we live?
8. How many times does the word "believe" show up in verse 18? What is the result of believing or not believing? What does it mean to "believe in the name of the only Son of God"? Is this just mental assent?
9. Why do people in the world love to live in the dark rather than living in the light? What does the light do to people who live in the dark? What does verse 20 tell us about the reason wicked people do not like the light? What does verse 21 tell us about the relationship between truth and light?
10. What could change a person from loving darkness to loving light?
11. What have you learned about belief from this section? How could it impact your life?
12. Read [Numbers 21:4-9](#) – How does Moses lifting the snake in the desert look forward to the "Son of Man" being "lifted up"?
13. How does the gift of love that God gave us through Jesus give us eternal life now as well as in the future?
14. What do people outside the kingdom of God say about why Jesus came into the world? What would you say to someone who doesn't understand why Jesus came?

End Your Group Time in Prayer