

GO TELL

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026

Sermon Passage(s): John 3:1-21

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This Week's Main Takeaway

The most effective evangelism doesn't happen from a platform—it happens person to person, in one-on-one conversations. In John 3, we get to listen in on a conversation. And in this simple conversation, we see evangelism in its purest form.

This Week's Memory Verse

John 3:16 (NIV), "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."

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about God?

Jesus welcomed the conversation with Nicodemus without shaming Nicodemus' confusion. He listened, engaged, and gently exposed Nicodemus' deeper need: a new birth by the Spirit (v. 5).

Only one thing gains a person entrance to heaven, and that's being born again. Jesus uses the word *unless* (v. 3). The new birth is the exclusive way to enter heaven (v. 5b). If being born again isn't a physical birth, then what is it? Jesus says it's a *spiritual birth*. The Spirit of God makes a person alive and new from the inside. The new birth happens when God's Spirit animates the human spirit, making a person alive to the things of God. *It's the total transformation of a person from the inside out. (CCE, The Gospel of John)*

Nicodemus was a Pharisee (v. 1). The main thing to understand about Pharisees is their seriousness about religion and zeal to obey God's law. They were serious about obeying every command God had laid out in the Old Testament. Judaism teaches that the Old Testament has 613 commandments—248 dos and 365 don'ts. The Pharisees were a religious group of around six thousand men committed to obeying every single command. *(CCE, The Gospel of John)*

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about man?

Evangelism begins with meeting people in their questions (vs. 4, 9), not demanding they start where we want them to be.

Jesus used a familiar story to point Nicodemus to the truth (vs. 14-15). In a world where evangelism often feels like a presentation or a program, John 3 invites us to learn from the Master Evangelist how we can step into conversations that meet people where they are and points them to the truth—not with the intent to win an argument but to extend an invitation. John 3:1-21 teaches us that evangelism is relational, Christ-centered, and invitational.

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

Share the gospel as an invitation, not an argument. Help people see that responding to Jesus is both urgent and life-giving (vs. 16-19).

John 3:16 promises us eternal life in Christ, a gift that can never be removed, changed, or altered. The greatest promise is this: we deserved death, but now can have life forevermore.

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

In sharing Jesus with others, it is important to keep three things in mind:

1. Present the gospel clearly and simply (v. 16).
2. Keep the message focused on Jesus (vs. 17-18).
3. Help people see the cross as God's provision for their greatest need (vs. 19-21).

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

God, out of love, gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (CSB Study Bible Notes)

Have you come to Jesus in faith? If so, when was the last time you told someone about Jesus? Remember, the most effective evangelism doesn't happen from a platform—it happens person to person, in one-on-one conversations.

Next Week's Sermon Text (April 26, 2026)

John 4

"Evangelism crosses barriers."

Sources:

Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in John (Holman Publishers)
CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)