Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 3:16-21 | The Way God Loves

Sunday November 15, 2026

WELCOME:

- Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- Prayer: **Psalm 150**
- Music

REVIEW:

For the past month, we have been examining a conversation between the Lord Jesus Christ and a very religious man named Nicodemus.

This conversation is most likely a snippet—a summary of everything they discussed.

I'm guessing that this conversation went well into the night.

Why did it go well into the night?

Because Nicodemus represents the best mankind has to offer to God in terms of a spiritual resume.

He comes from a famous family; he's highly educated; he's a Pharisee, so he's highly moral; and he's a member of the Sanhedrin—so he is the cream of the crop when it comes to mankind's version of the "ideal man."

In other words, if anyone can climb the stairway to heaven based on his own good works, it should be Nicodemus.

The problem Nic has is the same problem we all have—a bad case of the normals.

He's a sinner who thinks he's his own savior.

LW KEYPOINT 1:
Nicodemus doesn't need more information/education—he needs to repent and believe.

LW KEYPOINT 2:
Although he was a renowned teacher, Nicodemus proved to be a poor learner.

LW KEYPOINT 4:
If people don't like spiritual truth, they certainly don't like being told they are spiritually ignorant.

That is exactly what the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that night—and Nic couldn't understand it.

INTRODUCTION:
Today we continue our verse-by-verse exposition of this conversation in John 3.

Many of us have a favorite passage in the Bible—a life verse.

John Wesley, a priest during the 18th-century revival, favored Zechariah 3:2: ***"Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"***

David Livingstone, a medical doctor and missionary, preferred the last words of Matthew 28:20: ***"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." "***

Former slave trader and famous hymn writer John Newton said that his favorite verse was Romans 5:20: ***"But where sin increased, grace increased all the more."***

The famous Reformer, Martin Luther, had Romans 1:17 as his life verse: ***"The righteous will live by faith."***

So what is your favorite verse?

Mine is Psalm 42:2—***I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God?***

Today, we come to a verse that may not be your personal favorite, but you certainly know it and love it.

John 3:16— *For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16 is so important that many times, when Bible translators are translating the Bible into a new language—this is where they start.

We see it on shirts, hats, bumper stickers, posters, and key chains.

We see people make signs at football games.

In fact, Christian quarterback Tim Tebow used John 3:16 as face paint during his collegiate championship game.

After this game, Time Magazine reported 92 million Google searches for "John 3:16."

Fast forward three years later, Tim Tebow is playing pro ball for the Denver Broncos.

In a game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, he completed 10 passes, averaging 31.6 yards per completion—wait for it—for a total of 316 yards.

And some people say that God doesn't have a sense of humor.

John 3:16 is the most famous Bible passage ever.

AND it's also one of the most misunderstood and abused.

Today, we study this famous passage as Jesus concludes his conversation with Nicodemus.

How does the most famous passage in all of Scripture impact you?

Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

John 3:16*— For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:17*—For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

John 3:18*—Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.*

John 3:19*—This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.*

John 3:20*—For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.*

John 3:21*—But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God."*

May the Lord bless the reading of His Holy Word.

PRAY:

Help me understand the meaning of your precepts so that I can meditate on your wonders. (Psalm 119:27)

EXEGESIS:

John 3:1*—There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*

John 3:2*—This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."*

John 3:3*—Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

John 3:4*—"How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"*

John 3:5*—Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

John 3:6*—Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

John 3:7*—Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.*

John 3:8*—The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

John 3:9*—"How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.*

John 3:10*—"Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things?" Jesus replied.*

John 3:11*—"Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony.*

John 3:12*—If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?*

John 3:13*—No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man.*

John 3:14*—"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

John 3:15*—so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 3:16*—For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16 is not only the most famous verse in Scripture—it's the most famous summary of the Gospel.

ESV/LSB: ***For God so loved the world,***

Some paraphrase translations say:

- **NLT:** ***For this is how God loved the world:***
- **GW:** ***God loved the world this way:***
- **NET:** ***For this is the way God loved the world:***
- **NCV:** ***God loved the world so much***

As we begin, it's helpful to understand what God's love is and isn't.

To do this, I need to get all geeky on you.

John 3:16*—For God loved…*

The Greek verb for loved is *agapáō* —in the same family as *agápē*.

Agapáō refers to having a great affection, a great loyalty, concern, and care for people.

And we see this emphasis on people next:

John 3:16*—For God loved the world in this way:*

The Greek noun for world is *kósmos*.

In this context, *kósmos* refers not to the physical world, but to the people in it.

To paraphrase, ***God loves the people in His world.***

Question: Why? Why does God love the people in His world?

Not only is this an astounding statement today—it was more so in the first century.

The Jews were used to hearing how much God loved them—Israel, His chosen people.

And God proved His love for His people through covenants—these promises found in the OT.

But for Israel to hear that God loved the whole world is shocking.

It shouldn't be. The Lord told Abraham…

Genesis 12:3—*I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

The Lord spoke through His prophets…

Isaiah 45:22—*Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is no other.*

Joel 2:32— *Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved,*

God's love for the world makes it possible for everyone to believe.

Regardless of race, socioeconomic class, the amount of sin, or even the severity of your sin.

You too are loved by God.

Once again, my question is "Why does God love people?"

I mean, "HELLO! Have you not met us?!"

Does God love people because we're so:

- Lovable and loving?
- Wonderful and kind?
- Obedient and submissive?

No, the daily news tells us otherwise.

Is it because God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are lonely and the Trinity needs us in some form or fashion? No.

What is it about people that God should love?

It's certainly not based on who we are, what we've done, or what we'll do.

Why? Because Scripture makes it crystal clear that people don't love God.

In fact, Scripture says things many of us would never dare say out loud—that we hate God and don't want anything to do with Him.

Romans 1:29*—They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips,*

Romans 1:30*—slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

Romans 1:31*—senseless, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.*

So why would God choose to love people who hate Him?

Do you love people— who hate you or make that list in Romans 1?

"The world" points to people who love sin and hate God.

Yet, God chooses to love people when He sees nothing lovable in them.

So where did this kind of love come from?

Why on Earth would God choose to love the very people who hate Him?

The answer is mysterious, to say the least.

But let's give this a shot:

First, Scripture tells us that God loves us because it is His nature to do so.

It's out of the love that God:

- Promised a Savior directly after Adam and Eve sinned (Gen. 3:15)
- Covered Adam and Eve with animal skins to cover their shame and nakedness (Gen. 3:21).
- Noah preached "righteousness" for 100 years before the flood of judgment came.
- Made a covenant with Abraham to make him a great nation, to bless him, and extend those blessings to all people. (Gen. 12:1-3).
- Sent Moses to free Israel from slavery in Egypt (Ex 34:6)
- Continued to send prophets to remind people of His love.

Jeremiah 31:3—*I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you.*

Out of God's love, He announced through Jeremiah that He will make a new covenant.

In this covenant, God will write his teaching on their hearts, be their God, and forgive their sin. (Jer 31:31–34)

Within this new covenant—the New Testament—we read:

1 John 4:10—*Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice, for our sins.*

Ephesians 2:4—*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of <u>his great love</u> that he had for us,*

Ephesians 2:5*—made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by (His) grace!*

There is nothing we could or would ever do to merit God's faithful love.

In fact, we do everything we can to test God's patience in every way possible—because apart from God Himself, we are an unlovable people.

God's love isn't determined by circumstances.

God's love doesn't consist of anything outside of God Himself because God is love—and His love springs from Himself.

God's love is composed of God's very nature.

To understand God's love, we have to understand God's love within the Trinity, before creation.

- God the Father loves God the Son.
- God the Son loves the Father.
- The Father loves the Spirit as the Spirit loves the Son.

So within the Godhead we see perfect unity and perfect love.

KEYPOINT 1:
The source of God's love is within Himself.

However, love is not God's primary attribute.

That thought goes against the grain of today's Americanized church—because today's church seems to tell you over and over at nauseam how much "God loves you."

As if God is some co-dependent divine being with a poor self-image.

Scripture tells us that God's primary attribute is not love, but His holiness.

Isaiah 6:3*—Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.*

Revelation 4:8*—Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.*

Here we see this triple designation of God's character.

So, to understand God's relentless love, we have to grasp His holiness.

KEYPOINT 2:
God's holiness is a loving holiness, and his love is a holy love.

God's love is a divine love that is alien to us and outside our natural realm of understanding—an otherworldly kind of love.

KEYPOINT 3:
We don't define love, and love doesn't define God— God Himself defines love.

This means our human thoughts, opinions, and conceptions of love cannot constrain or place limits on the love of God.

So, God's love is not overly emotional, sentimental, or cold.

God's divine love is full of benevolence, kindness, and mercy.

In the OT, we'll see the term "Faithful love."

Numbers 14:18*—The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in faithful love,*

"Faithful love" is the Hebrew noun *ḥesed*.

Hesed refers to a divine loyalty—a loyal love that we cannot comprehend as humans.

Remarkably, God's love springs from His loyalty, which enables Him to love people—but hate their sin.

John 3:16—*He gave …*

Next, we see how God's love is a verb—it's an action.

God's love is a giving love.

God loves people in two distinct ways.

For unbelievers, God loves them by extending common grace.

Common grace is things such as:

- General blessings like rain and sunshine, food and water, clothing and shelter.
- God enables all people to acquire knowledge—to have a conscience—to know intrinsically right from wrong.
- God restrains sin in our lives—He protects us from ourselves.
- Civil order is maintained in social life.

For Believers, He loves them through all these things and more by extending special grace.

John 3:16—*He gave his one and only Son,*

God's love for the world led to a very specific action—the Father not only gives, but gave His only Son.

NKJV/LSB: ***He gave His only begotten Son,***

Begotten means "unique."

In the OT, Isaac was not Abraham's son, but he was his one-of-a-kind son—the son of promise.

We see this uniqueness in the NT when it refers to earthly children.

For example: Jairus's daughter.

When applied to Jesus, however, the emphasis of uniqueness shifts to "the one and only" Son of God.

It emphasizes the Son's preciousness to the Father.

This "giving" represents the highest price that the Father could pay to demonstrate His love for the world.

Jesus is the unique Son of God; no one is like him, no one is his equal.

John 3:16*—so that everyone who believes in him…*

Although regeneration/being born again is a divine work, we do have a human responsibility.

That responsibility is not to "choose God" because we can't.

It's not to do "good deeds" for God, because our good deeds are filthy rags.

Our responsibility is to believe God–not pray the sinner's prayer.

John uses this term "believe" 95 times in 85 verses.

In other words, we are to trust God and believe in God.

John 3:16*—so that everyone who believes in him will not perish…*

"Will not perish" refers to escaping the ultimate fate of damnation.

Damnation is an:

- "everlasting punishment," which involves the "fire that never shall be quenched."
- The wicked "shall be cast … into outer darkness."
- And there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" for eternity.

It doesn't mean that people will soon "cease to exist," but instead that they will be "tormented day and night forever" (Rev. 20:10, 15)

Damnation is not the permanent separation from God, but instead God's permanent wrath for those who reject God's one and only Son.

To lose God's grace and experience His holy wrath is unimaginable, unfathomable, and beyond our human comprehension today.

"Will not perish" is the encouraging promise that Believers will never experience the conscious, perpetual wrath that characterizes hell, but instead Believers will enjoy unbroken fellowship with God forever.

John 3:16*—so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

By contrast, those who believe in God's one and only Son receive eternal life—and not death.

KEYPOINT 4:
Eternal life is not only about the quantity of life, but the quality of life.

Eternal life begins the moment you are born again!

John 3:17*—For God did not send his Son into the world …*

John's favorite designation of Jesus is that God "sent" Him.

And in return, Jesus sends His 12 Disciples.

And in return, the Twelve sent more disciples—and we, as those disciples, also make and send more disciples into the world.

John 3:17—*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,*

Judgment is coming for people who refuse to believe— but not yet.

We live in the most amazing time of church history—the era of grace.

This era is the time between Christ's Resurrection and His Second Coming.

It's during His Second Coming when the Lord will bring judgment.

Why must judgment come?

Because God is a just God—it's impossible for God to wink at sin.

Sin must be punished, and it will be—but not yet.

John 3:17— *but to save the world through him.*

How exactly does Jesus save the world?

By being the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

The saving work itself centers on the Lord's sacrificial death.

There is only one Mediator between God and man—Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

Yet Christ's death does not save people automatically; they must hear of him, believe him, and call upon his name in faith.

God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance and belief.

John 3:18—*Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.*

Big picture: no one stands morally neutral before a holy God.

Believers are declared innocent; unbelievers are judged as guilty.

Believers enter the Kingdom; unbelievers experience the torments of hell for eternity.

This verse also debunks the thought that all religions lead to Heaven or that a sincere person following any religion can have eternal life with God.

There is no other way to God—but through belief in His one and only Son.

John 3:18— *but anyone who does not believe is already condemned,*

Verse 18 continues with a terrifying judgment.

Obviously, most people don't like this teaching.

Why must sin be punished and punished eternally?

The most fundamental reason centers on justice itself.

KEYPOINT 5:
Not believing in God's Son is an infinite evil committed against an eternal God.

Many people say that God judging people to hell isn't fair.

But this isn't unjustified retribution— but a matter of moral proportionality.

We see this in our own justice system—the punishment is proportional to the crime.

For example, there's a difference between *misdemeanor theft* and *felony theft.*

What was taken, the value of what was taken, and how it was taken also matter.

A human, honest judge will sentence people according to their crimes—how much more so a just God?

BTW, no one is more fair than God Himself.

John 3:19*—This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.*

Jesus gives the reason for the world's rejection of Him: He is the light who exposes each person's sin.

Everyone hates this exposure; therefore, they also hate the God who exposed them.

John 3:20*—For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.*

Hating the light is our nature—we are children of darkness.

The world hates Jesus, His Church, the Bible, and you—if you're born-again.

John 3:21*—But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God."*

Jesus speaks of “living/doing” the truth after being born-again.

People who live by the truth live by repentance, faith, and transformation.

Believers no longer hide in darkness and wallow in sin.

We welcome exposure and correction—we want to change.

We begin to love those things we used to hate—and we begin to hate those things we used to love.

In doing so, God works His plan of redemption through us as His people.

APPLICATION:

How do you think Nicodemus responded to this conversation with Jesus?

John doesn't tell us, but we do know that three years later, Nicodemus played a major role in preparing Jesus' body for burial after the crucifixion.

According to tradition, Nicodemus was excommunicated from the Sanhedrin and reduced to poverty.

More importantly, how do you respond—to the most famous passage in the Bible?

Do you find it hard to believe that God couldn't love you?

Is it hard to believe that God loves you at all?

I think that one thing this passage should do is change our definition of love.

As humans, our love tends to be overly emotional and dependent on circumstances.

And it's dangerous to define "love" based on emotions and circumstances because those two things are always changing.

So how do we practically live out God's definition of love in our lives?

1. Repent—of living by our sinful emotions and worrying over our circumstances.

Repentance provides a clean slate. Clean slate for what?

2. Prayer—to ask and petition the Lord to love as He loves.

That is a prayer that He'll answer immediately because love is always according to His will.

3. View love (*Agapáō)* as faithful and sacrificial.
Love is not getting what you want from others—it's about faithfully and sacrificially giving to them—regardless of the cost to you.

The Father *gave*—and He gave *His best* to save you.

So the ultimate picture of love is the blood-stained cross.

Whether we think we deserve God's love or whether it's nearly impossible to accept His love—we are to look to the cross.

The Father didn't have to send His Son—but He did.

And because He did—we now have the opportunity to love as God loves.

Not entirely, but increasingly.

1 John 4:7— *Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

1 John 4:8—*The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 John 4:9—*God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him.*

1 John 4:10—*Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:11—*Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.*

How do we do that? How do we practically and truly love one another as God has first loved us?

1 Corinthians 13 is known as “the love chapter” and is often read at weddings.

What’s funny is that the context of 1 Cor. 13 isn't a marriage ceremony—it’s the church.

It’s how we are to treat one another!

1 Corinthians 13:1*—If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

1 Corinthians 13:2*—If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:3*—And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

That’s the prologue—now the key to learning how to love as God loves— is to replace your name every time you hear the word *love*.

1 Corinthians 13:4*—Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant,*

1 Corinthians 13:5*— is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.*

1 Corinthians 13:6*—Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.*

1 Corinthians 13:7*— It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Did you pass the pop-up quiz?

1 Corinthians 13:8*—Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.*

1 Corinthians 13:9*—For we know in part, and we prophesy in part,*

1 Corinthians 13:10*—but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end.*

1 Corinthians 13:11*—When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things.*

1 Corinthians 13:12*—For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.*

1 Corinthians 13:13*—Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.*

PRAYER:
SONG:

BENEDICTION:

May the LORD bless you and protect you;

may the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

may the LORD look with favor on you
and give you peace." (Num. 6:24)

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 3:16-21 | The Way God Loves

Sunday November 15, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

The _____ of God's love is within Himself.

KEYPOINT 2:

God's holiness is a _____ holiness, and his love is a _____ love.

KEYPOINT 3:

_____ don't define love, and love doesn't define _____ — God Himself _____ love.

KEYPOINT 4:

Eternal life is not only about the _____ of life, but the _____ of life.

KEYPOINT 5:

Not believing in God's Son is an _____evil committed against an _____ God.

SERMON NOTES:

POP QUIZ

1. In the sermon's explanation of John 3:16, who is included in "the world" God loved?

A. The people of Israel alone
B. People whose obedience earned God's favor
C. People whose family heritage set them apart
D. People across all nations and backgrounds

2. According to the third key point, who defines what love is?

A. Society, according to its shared values
B. God himself, through his character and actions
C. The church, according to its traditions
D. Each person, according to individual experience

3. Which example does the sermon give of God's common grace?

A. Eternal fellowship with God
B. Forgiveness of sins through faith
C. Freedom from condemnation through the Son
D. Rain and sunshine that sustain life

4. What does "one and only Son" emphasize in the sermon's explanation of John 3:16?

A. Jesus was one messenger among many God sent.
B. Jesus is the Father's unique and precious Son.
C. Jesus earned his place as Son through obedience.
D. Jesus was the first of many sons equal to him.

5. What response does John 3:16 call for from those who hear about God's gift?

A. Depend on the faith of one's family.
B. Trust in the Son whom the Father gave.
C. Earn God's favor through good deeds.
D. Rely on having prayed a particular prayer.

6. What does the fourth key point emphasize about eternal life?

A. It is a promise of comfort and ease in this life.
B. It is chiefly a promise of a longer earthly life.
C. It includes both life without end and fellowship with God.
D. It is a future reward with no present beginning.

7. According to John 3:17, why did God send his Son into the world?

A. To establish several equally valid ways to God
B. To give people a moral example as the basis of salvation
C. To save the world through him
D. To pronounce the final judgment at his first coming

8. What does John 3:18 say about the person who does not believe in God's Son?

A. The person remains neutral before God until the last day.
B. The person already stands condemned because of unbelief.
C. The person is accepted if their beliefs are sincere.
D. The person will be condemned only if their deeds outweigh their good works.

9. According to John 3:19–20, why do people who do evil avoid the light?

A. They want to bring their deeds into the open at a later time.
B. They are waiting for the light to come into the world.
C. They want to keep their deeds from being exposed.
D. They believe exposure will prove their deeds are good.

10. According to John 3:21, what is shown when a person who lives by the truth comes to the light?

A. Their works are the basis of God's acceptance.
B. Their works show that they changed through their own efforts.
C. Their works prove they have never struggled with sin.
D. Their works have been accomplished by God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Monday — God Loved the World (John 3:16)

1. When you hear that God loves you, what are you tempted to think you must do to earn or keep his love?
2. The sermon explained that God's love comes from who He is. How does that provide comfort when you're keenly aware of your sin?
3. Who is difficult for you to love right now? What would it look like to show that person genuine care this week?

Tuesday — God Gave His Son (John 3:16)

1. What does the gift of God's one and only Son show you about the way God loves?
2. The sermon described God's love as "holy." How do you view God's love as "holy?"
3. How difficult is it to love others based on God's definition versus your own definition of love?

Wednesday — Everyone Who Believes (John 3:16)

1. How does the promise that you "will not perish" speak to a fear you're carrying?
2. If eternal life includes fellowship with God that begins now, how might that change the way you spend time with him today?

Thursday — The Son Came to Save (John 3:17–18)

1. When you're painfully aware of your sin, how does knowing the Father sent his Son to save you shape how you approach him?
2. What does the phrase "already condemned" teach you about the urgency of trusting the Lord?
3. Who in your life needs to hear why the Lord came? How could you explain the hope of John 3:17 to them in your own words?

Friday — Why We Avoid the Light (John 3:19–20)

1. When someone points out a wrong you've done, what is your first instinct? What might that reaction reveal about what you're trying to protect?
2. Is there something you've been excusing because facing it would mean making a change? What would it look like to be honest about it before the Lord?
3. Where have you seen the Lord use correction to help you grow?

Saturday — Coming into the Light (John 3:21)

1. What is one area where the Lord has changed what you love or what you desire? Where is that change still unfolding?
2. John 3:21 gives God the credit for the works brought into the light. What work of his grace in your life can you thank him for this week?

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