
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermon-archive
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

John 3:9-16

[9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? [11] Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

[16] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Sermon Outline:

1. God's love is greater than our minds can fathom
2. God's love is measured by the gift that he gave
3. God's love is a paradox, both broad & narrow

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

- When was the last time you were amazed by a morning frost? When was the last time you were amazed by anything in God's creation (honest question: did you see the moon last night?!).
- When was the last time you were amazed by a common passage in Scripture? Try to describe the experience (sometimes it's difficult to put into words). Does this happen to you on a regular basis? Are there ways to enhance our sense of wonder when we approach God's word?
(https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0749QDQT1/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_1AMBQAV77A6NY901GAKQ)
- What is your experience with John 3:16? What makes this passage so powerful?
- When you hear the words that "God loved the *world*" what does your mind typically think of? Do you consider the *bigness* of the world, or the *badness* of the world? What is John referring to in John 3:16? (See 1 John 2:15-17 for another use of "world"). Is it unsettling or comforting (or a little of both) to consider God's agape love for a sinful world? Would Nicodemus have been unsettled or comforted by this revelation of God's love?
- God's love moves toward sin, not away from it. Is this the direction of your love? Do you tend to move toward people that are comfortable, rich, powerful? Or do you move toward people who are sinful or hurting? Why do you think this is? Is there a connection between our view of God and our actions toward other broken people?
- Pastor Josh said that God's love is a paradox, both narrow & broad. The Christian faith is filled with powerful paradoxes. What are some of the other paradoxes in the Christian faith that have led to a greater understanding of God's kingdom? (Life is found when we die to ourselves... freedom is found when we serve... true riches are found when we give... God lifts us up when we humble ourselves...). Talk about the specific paradox of God's love - how it is broad & narrow.
- The narrow part of God's love is that it must be *received*. It sounds so simple, doesn't it? And yet, does anyone else struggle to live in knowledge of God's love? Why is God's love often difficult for us to receive? Do you live in the knowledge of God's love? How does this shape your daily life? If this is not your daily experience, what is fueling you? Insecurity? Fear? How can John 3:16 transform your understanding of God's love this week?
- Who can you proclaim this truth to this week? Do you have any non-believers in your life that need to know about God's love? Are there any weary believers in your life that could use this word?

