



## The Gospel of John

### Week 4 Discussion Questions

**Text: John 3:1-21**

**Icebreaker: If you could ask Jesus one question today what would it be and why?**

1. Read this week's passage. What is most familiar to you and what is one new observation?

*As a leader, think about all the ways you've seen John 3:16 show up in public places. You can also ask people if they ever heard the rest of John 3:17-21. You could also ask if people knew that John 3:16 was in the context of Jesus meeting with Nicodemus.*

2. What is John's intent in letting his reader know that Nicodemus came to Jesus at Night?

*John is wanting us to see that Nicodemus is in the dark and needs to come to the light. His religious pedigree is not the prerequisite of entering the kingdom of God. Jesus is the access point and the spirit gives the necessary new birth to enter into God's family.*

3. Read John 3:1-9, 7:45-52, 19:38:40, what progression of faith do you see in Nicodemus?

*Notice how John helps his reader see Nicodemus coming to Jesus privately at night and then resisting negative public opinion of Jesus to finally stand public ally with Jesus at his burial.*

4. How would you tell your personal story of growing faith in Jesus? When did you first seek him out? What kinds of questions started your faith journey?

*This is a good opportunity to help people share their personal stories with the group. This can include how they started following Jesus. This can also include personal experiences of not wanting to be too public about their faith but then standing with Jesus in the public sphere.*

5. Re-read John 3:3-5 What do you think Jesus means by seeing and entering the Kingdom of God?

*The Kingdom of God or Kingdom of heaven is a central message to Jesus' preaching. The Kingdom can be seen as the rule, reign and realm of God. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come". In a sense this is what all believers are hoping in. That God's kingdom of heaven will come to be the kingdom on earth. Revelation 11:5 says, "'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. "It's too simplistic to say this is just heaven. This is eternal life where God's will is being experienced. This is the hope of every Christian.*



## The Gospel of John

6. Re-read John 3:14 and then Numbers 21:4-9. What parallels do you see between the people in Numbers and the people in the world today? What is the significance of Jesus being lifted up like the bronze serpent?

*Notice the parallels of the people who have rejected God. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We all have been bitten with a poison of leading to death. God created a means of healing for our disease that is to be received by faith. Looking at the bronze serpent is to look upon (believe in) Jesus. He is the means of grace that God offers. Both are a wisdom of God that no one would have imagined. Both are an act of faith to trust. Both are lifted high for all to see.*

7. In your own words, what does it mean for someone to come out of “darkness” and into “light”?

*Take time as a group to put into words what darkness has been described to be and how light is the source of life and salvation.*

8. Re-read John 3:19-20 What keeps people from coming to Jesus the Light of Life?

*Think about all the behaviors we do in darkness, under cover of night. What sorts of enjoyment do people get from them? Why would they not want to give them up? Think about how we imagine it to feel when we're exposed by the light. When something that was hidden is now known.*

9. How does John 3:16-17 give us a picture of who God is and motivate us to move towards him and not away?

*Though we might be afraid of the lights exposure we learn that God's light is not to condemn us but to save us. It is a healing light. God is also the initiator of this light and his motivation is love.*

10. **Getting Real:** Is there any areas of your life that you keep from being seen because you're afraid of the light? Do you believe that Jesus' light is a healing light? What would it take for you to bring your whole life out of darkness and be healed?