



## JOHN CHAPTER 3 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is on your “bucket list” to do or see and why?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (John 3:1-36)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

### **John 3:1-15**

- What is significant about Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night and was this a positive or negative thing?
  - There is a large amount of significance to the fact that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, and he wasn't just any ordinary Pharisee but a Pharisee who was a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling group of the Jews. So, Nicodemus had both prominent status and position. The fact that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night may indicate a couple of things. Number one, it may indicate that he had some fear in anyone knowing that he was going to seek out Jesus because he was curious about Him, especially

considering his status and position. Number two, he may have just wanted one on one time with Jesus when Jesus wasn't surrounded by large crowds of people. Regardless, it is a very positive thing that Nicodemus chose to go and seek Jesus out because the reality is that he did take risks to do this. He was willing to risk his position and status and what others would say, think, and believe about him were they to find out that he did seek Jesus out to find out more information about Him.

- What risks are you currently taking to seek after Jesus and point others to Him? What risks do you need to be willing to take to seek after Jesus and point people to Him?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- What do you think it means to be born of water and the Spirit and why is this important for us to understand in how we live as disciples of Jesus today?
  - Jesus was referring to baptism and the Holy Spirit in His discussion with Nicodemus. Baptism for Jesus was a part of His own surrendering and submission to the will of His Father and as a result of that submission and surrender, Jesus didn't seek to act according to His will and His own agenda but was driven by and led by the Holy Spirit. For us today, we need to understand and live that being a part of God's kingdom involves a daily and moment by moment surrendering of ourselves to what God and His Spirit desire over and above what we desire.
    - In what ways do you struggle with surrendering and submitting to God? What can you do in these times?
    - In what ways can you more fully be led and driven by the Holy Spirit?
      - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

**John 3:16-21**

- What sticks out to you about verses 16-17? In what ways do you need to more fully love the world around you like Jesus does? How do you plan to do this rather than just thinking and/or talking about it?
  - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- Reread verses 19-21.
  - What areas of your life do you need to bring more fully into the light of Jesus? What is scary about this? What is exciting about this?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **John 3:22-36**

- How does John the Baptist's response to his disciples in verses 27-36 exhibit what he understands about his understanding of God, his understanding of his identity, and his understanding of his mission? What does this have to do with you and me today?
  - John the Baptist very clearly understood who he was in relationship to who God was and he wasn't interested in participating in a game of securing people's praise and/or approval. He understood that his mission was to live a life of surrender and submission in pointing himself and others to God. His identity wasn't rooted in baptizing more people, the praise of people, and/or the criticism of people. His identity was rooted in who God made him to be. As disciples of Jesus, we have the same decisions to make just as John the Baptist did. We can be people who seek to live for an audience of One, that audience being God, or we can be people who are constantly jumping through hoops to receive applause from others.
    - In what ways can you more fully live for an audience of One, that audience being God?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?

- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 4)



### **JOHN CHAPTER 3 (STUDENT)**

#### **Discussion Starter**

- What is on your "bucket list" to do or see and why?
- **Opening Prayer**

#### **John 3:1-15**

- What is significant about Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night and was this a positive or negative thing?
  - What risks are you currently taking to seek after Jesus and point others to Him? What risks do you need to be willing to take to seek after Jesus and point people to Him?

- What do you think it means to be born of water and the Spirit and why is this important for us to understand in how we live as disciples of Jesus today?
  - In what ways do you struggle with surrendering and submitting to God? What can you do in these times?
  - In what ways can you more fully be led and driven by the Holy Spirit?

### **John 3:16-21**

- What sticks out to you about verses 16-17? In what ways do you need to more fully love the world around you like Jesus does? How do you plan to do this rather than just thinking and/or talking about it?
- Reread verses 19-21.
  - What areas of your life do you need to bring more fully into the light of Jesus? What is scary about this? What is exciting about this?

### **John 3:22-36**

- How does John the Baptist's response to his disciples in verses 27-36 exhibit what he understands about his understanding of God, his understanding of his identity, and his understanding of his mission? What does this have to do with you and me today?
  - In what ways can you more fully live for an audience of One, that audience being God?

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

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- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
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