

## Connection Group Questions

For the week of November 10, 2024

**This Week's Message: "Trusting Only in Christ Brings Eternal Life"**

Passages: John 3:14-21

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

### Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. As a child, were you afraid of the dark? Did you sleep with a nightlight, cuddle with a favorite stuffed toy, or ask your parents to check under the bed before you went to sleep?

### Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read John 3:14-21. Jesus continues his conversation with Nicodemus.**
  - Are there any aspects of this story that stand out to you?
3. **Verse 14 refers to an incident of "the bronze snake" in Numbers 21:4-9.**
  - What are the comparisons in this Old Testament account, to Jesus, the "Son of Man?" Are there some contrasts?
  - What does it mean that Jesus is called the "Son of Man?" Read Daniel 7:13-14; John 1:14; 1 John 4:2.
  - When Jesus tells Nicodemus that the "*Son of Man must be lifted up,*" does He mean this literally or is He referring to something else?
4. **John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses in all of Scripture.**
  - Why do you think this verse has become to be known as well-worn or misunderstood?
  - How does the meaning of the word "so" in "*For God so loved the world*" make a significant difference in the way you read and understand this verse?
  - What comes to your mind when you read the word "*loved*" in this verse?
  - What is the difference between simply "*believing*" in Christ vs. fully "*trusting*" in Him?
  - Discuss the different aspects between Jesus, God's only Son, who shares the same divine nature ... as opposed to believers who are called God's sons and daughters by adoption. Read Ephesians 1:5.
  - Why is it important to read verse 3:16 in context with verses 17 and 18 that follow?
5. **In verses 17-18, Jesus' mission or purpose of His coming into the world explained.**
  - How are these passages an antidote to our wrong thinking about God?
  - Biblically, what does it mean that we are already condemned? What exactly is it that "condemns" us? Read Romans 3:23; 6:23.
  - Discuss the two possible outcomes of God sending His Son. What is key here that divides the two?
6. **In verses, 19-21, Jesus exposes deeds and our spiritual condition apart from Him is pervasive.**
  - Discuss how people can easily lose their sense of guilt or shame when they openly rebel against the commandments of God but feel their actions are justified in saying or doing it. Romans 1:25. What are the dangers of this?
  - Read 1 John 2:28. What does it mean to "remain in Christ" that will make us confident and unashamed when He returns? How is this evidence we have been "born again?"
  - In what ways has your relationship with Jesus allowed you to recognize evil more clearly, so that you might choose what is holy?

**7. In verses 20-21, Jesus compares and contrasts the difference between those who receive Him and those who reject Him.**

- How would you explain to someone what constitutes “darkness” and what exactly is “light?”
- How is this not about just affirming a set of doctrines but embracing a way of life that acknowledges our belief and trust in our Savior?
- How are you giving glory to God for your salvation and all that is “good” in your life? Ephesians 2:4-10.

**Application For The Week**

As followers of Christ, we are to “*live as children of light*” instead of getting tangled up in the darkness of the sins that once limited and condemned us. (Ephesians 5:8-11) Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we are no longer held in bondage but walk in righteousness and truth. This week, ask yourself if you are reflecting the illumination of our Creator bringing light to those who live in darkness around you and give Him glory for it is God’s gift of salvation that enables us to lay down our old lives and take hold of the new life we have in Christ.

**How Your Group Can Pray This Week**

As the Bible promises, and just as Jesus told Nicodemus, everyone who puts their trust in Christ alone, will have eternal life. There is no other way than in faith alone in our Savior. (John 3:16) Although this verse may well be the best-known passage in the Bible, pray that in its familiarity, we are not blinded to its meaning. Pray that God’s message of love and His passion for the lost with the gift of His only Son will bring the promise of eternal life and peace to those who choose to believe and put their trust in Him.