

JOHN 2:13-3:36

January 28, 2021

1. Write out your definition for “believe.”

What words would you use to characterize belief in Jesus as the Savior?

2. Read John 2:13-17. As Jesus enters the temple at Passover, describe His findings and His reaction.

What led Him to take bold action according to verse 16? Read Psalm 69:9.

What is the reaction of His disciples?

3. Although the temple marketplace was meant to be a convenience for Passover worshippers, it had become a distraction to true worship. What are some distractions to our worship of God today?

How can you guard your worship experience?

4. Read John 2:18-25. What do the Jewish authorities demand after Jesus removes the temple vendors? Why? Read Mark 8:11.

When will Jesus’ prophetic reply to the authorities in John 2:19 be fulfilled?

5. Jesus has a prominent visitor in John 3:1-21. What do you learn about him in verses 1-2?

6. What are some reasons Nicodemus might choose to talk with Jesus at night?

How does the nighttime visit characterize Nicodemus' spiritual state? See John 11:10.

Jesus responds to Nicodemus with truth about how spiritual transformation occurs. What is needed to enter the kingdom of God according to John 3:3-8?

In verse 8, Jesus compares the work of the Holy Spirit in spiritual transformation to the wind. List the similarities that He shares with Nicodemus.

7. Why does Jesus rebuke Nicodemus in John 3:9-12?

Record the truths that Jesus reveals about Himself as the Son of Man in John 3:13-15.

Read Numbers 21:4-9. What similarities do you see between the story of the serpent lifted up on Moses' staff and Jesus' crucifixion on the cross?

8. John 3:16 is arguably the most well-known verse in the Bible. Read John 3:16-21 and answer the following questions:

What is God's motive for salvation? *v. 16*

To whom is He offering salvation? *vv. 16-17*

Who is the sacrificial offering that provides salvation? *v. 16*

Why did God send His Son into the world? *v. 17*

What is the role of *belief* in salvation? *v. 18*

Why do people love the darkness and hate the light? *vv. 19-20*

9. Read John 3:22-36. John the Baptist and Jesus are both in the Judean countryside doing ministry along with their followers. What definitive statements does John the Baptist make about his identity and role in verses 28-30?

List some characteristics of John the Baptist that you see in these verses.

10. In John 3:31-36, John the Baptist testifies to the origins and supremacy of Jesus. What do you learn about Jesus from his testimony?

According to verse 36, what are the only two options given to people when confronted with the truth of Jesus and eternal life?

11. Reread John 3:16. What are the important truths from chapter 3 that you would want to share with someone who has not yet chosen to believe in Jesus? Now pray about who you might share these truths with in the weeks to come.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Whoever Believes

John 2:13-3:36

People Who Must See To Believe

2:13-25

- Jesus rids the temple of the marketplace that has corrupted prayer and worship.
- He cites His authority for His actions by claiming God as His Father.
- In reply to Jewish leaders' questions, He reveals the miracle of His future resurrection.
- Those who witnessed His miracles during Passover concluded He was a prophet.
- Jesus saw those who believed His miracles did not yet believe He was their Savior.

Guard yourself from needing _____ experiences to bolster your belief.
To deepen your faith, simply look for Jesus himself in His Word.

A Teacher Who Needs Teaching To Believe

3:1-21

- Nicodemus, an influential Pharisee and teacher, pursues a private audience with Jesus.
- Jesus knows Nicodemus needs the spiritual transformation that comes from being "born again".
- Jesus uses "born again" to depict spiritual rebirth through God's Spirit resulting in new life.
- Nicodemus' spiritual blindness is an example of Israel's blindness.
- In love, God sent His Son to save the world from sin and condemnation.
- Condemnation rests on those who willfully refuse to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Unbelief and lack of _____ of the Word go hand in hand.
Seek life-changing truth from Jesus in His Word as a foundation for your belief.

A Prophet Who Believes and Sees

3:22-36

- John the Baptist's disciples are upset as they see Jesus doing ministry nearby.
- As a true believer in Jesus, John the Baptist's ministry is a God-given privilege not a competition.
- Jesus, who has been sent by God, is above every earthly teacher.
- Because He has God's Spirit without limitation, Jesus gives the perfect truth of God through the words of God.
- All mankind is given two choices: believe in Jesus and gain eternal life or reject Jesus and receive God's wrath.

Rejoice in the clarity and purpose that believing in Jesus brings to our lives.
Share the truth about Jesus so that others might _____ Him and life eternal.

Key: sensational, understanding, choose

JESUS the WORD – John 2:13 – 3:36

January 27-28, 2021

HEBREWS 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

JEREMIAH 17:10 “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

JOHN 6:66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

ROMANS 3:23-25 [F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

ROMANS 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOHN 19:39-40 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

JOHN 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”