

Mental

Live By Light

JOHN 3:14-22

SESSION 7.11



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

- Bible Background Video.
- Prepare also Numbers 21:4-9

☐ *Introduce*

Introduce today's session:

Ask: **John 3:16 is certainly well-known... but do you think it completely expresses what it means to be a Christian? Why or why not?**

Read aloud John 3:1-22, which includes today's focal passage.

Watch the Bible Background Video.

Use the following questions to guide discussion.

☐ *Coming into the Light*

Why is it significant that Nicodemus came to Jesus at nighttime, rather than publicly in the day? What is symbolic about his nighttime visit?

As you read through the conversation, look closely at Nicodemus' questions and Jesus' responses. Why do you think Jesus doesn't directly answer Nicodemus' questions? How do you think Jesus addressed Nicodemus' deeper questions – the ones he didn't ask aloud?

- To understand Jesus' in verse 14, we need to know the story. Have someone read aloud Numbers 21:4-9.
- Discuss the reason the snakes came among the people. It wasn't just the act of complaining... what were they expressing spiritually by their complaints?
- What did Moses ask for, and what did God give? What would have been the simplest and most convenient answer?
- Why do you think God chose to rescue the people this way, rather than simply removing the snakes?
- What were the people expressing spiritually by looking at the snake?

☐ *"Believing in" Jesus*

- How does the story of God's salvation from the snakes parallel the story of God's salvation through Jesus?
- What do you think it means to "believe in" Jesus? Is it more than just a mental exercise? What does it mean to actively believe or have faith in Jesus?
- What does "believing" look like in verses 19-21? What are we expressing spiritually when we do this?
- The images of light and darkness are powerful. Discuss what Jesus is saying in verses 19-21 – what does it mean that people who do evil are afraid of the light?
- What does it mean to come into the light – is it easy to do? How does this require the kind of active faith that we were discussing above?

Close with prayer.

By Jon Parks

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