

# NewSpring Church Personal Study Guide

## The Gospel — Week 5

As you examine the most recognized verse in all of scripture phrase by phrase, realize the profound love God demonstrated toward you when He gave His Son for your forgiveness and salvation.

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

“For God” - what a different story we would have if the story of our redemption began with man. Thankfully, Scripture says, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” This Creation was His idea. Salvation through Christ was His idea. Why? The love that God has for His Son through all eternity overflowed in the work of Creation and redemption. Praise be to God who, for His own name sake, spoke the universe into existence and breathed life into man! God and His works do not exist for our benefit; we are created by Him and for Him!

- Why did God send Jesus?

“So” - God’s extravagant love power packed into one tiny little word. John could have just as easily said, “For God loved the world.” Instead, he expresses God’s unfathomable love in the simplest way. This love is illustrated in God’s Creation and how He loves us in everyday life. In the deepest, darkest, loneliest jungle on earth, you will find a flower that blooms for man’s enjoyment and God’s glory. He also was not satisfied to just make a sacrifice for our sin. God has given us abundance through Jesus Christ now and for eternity.

- How has He loved you extravagantly?

“Loved” - Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Despite our willful rejection of God, He continually loves us. In fact, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to give us eternal life. Jesus allowed His life to be taken in order pay the debt, we owed, but were unable to pay ourselves. What an incomprehensible love. It is only through Him, we are able to experience life to its full on earth, and eventually in Heaven.

- Have you expressed to Jesus how thankful you are for Him giving you eternal life? Take some time to do that today.

“The World” - The fact Jesus would die for our sins is astounding. The greater wonder is that He left the splendor of Heaven and the presence of His Father, to be born of a virgin in a lowly manger. He has gone to great lengths to have a relationship with you and with me. He risked your misunderstanding of the power and majesty of the God-head in order to connect with you in a personal, intimate way. Philippians 2:6-7 says, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” He came to be among us because “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

- Where do you see Jesus at work right now in your world?

“That He gave” - Romans 11:33-36 says, “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out! ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?’ ‘Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

- In light of what He has given you, what is your response to Him?

“His one and only Son” - 1 John 4:9-10 says, “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love; not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” We have done absolutely nothing to merit His favor to us. We had nothing in us before meeting Christ that would incline our hearts toward God. The depth and riches of His love toward us can only be understood in comprehending the quality of His sacrifice. The fact our Father would direct His love toward us is momentous. That He would send His only Son to pay for our debt and cancel our sin is beyond comprehension.

- Looking back, how did God draw you to himself even before you were aware of His goodness, kindness, and mercy?

“That whoever believes in Him” - The word “believes” is often misunderstood. We use the word in many different situations. For example, “I believe Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president,” or “I believe tacos are great.” In each case “believe” means intellectual assent. You would agree that those things are true. That is not the meaning of “believe” in this verse. John 3:14-15 is the key to understanding the word “believe”. It says, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” This reference to Numbers 10 shows us that true belief is turning away from what is killing us and fixing our eyes on the only thing that can save us.

- Based on that definition, have you believed?

“Shall not perish” - The bible says that for the enemies of God there is a “fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire” (Hebrews 10:27). Matthew 25:41 says, “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart

from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” There is only one alternative to eternal life through Jesus Christ and that is eternal separation from Christ in a place called hell. For those who have an intimate relationship with Christ there will be joy in His Heavenly presence.

- How is your relationship with God? Is there any doubt in your mind that you will not experience the joy of being with Jesus in Heaven for eternity?

“But have eternal life.” - John 17:3 says, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Eternal life begins when you place your hope and trust in Jesus Christ. We are promised a great life now and an unbelievable future in the presence of God in heaven. Thank you God for your indescribable gift!

- Who do you know that needs Jesus? Challenge him/her to come to church this coming Sunday.

God’s love is amazing! Reread John 3:16 and simply reflect on what you have learned. Pray to your Heavenly Father and give Him thanks for His extravagant love towards you that you do not deserve. We are so blessed.