

January 21, 2024

Nic at Night
John 3
Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 14 Num. 3

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

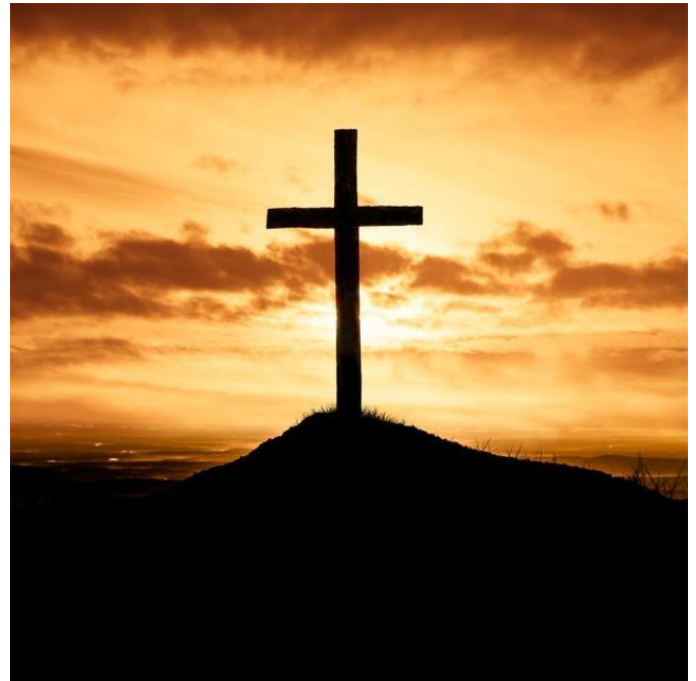
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In John Chapter 3 Nicodemus goes to see Jesus under the cover of darkness. Nicodemus is trying to understand more about Jesus. He knows that he cannot deny the miracles that Jesus is doing but wants to make sure he understands the teaching. Nicodemus is torn between the pressure he feels as a pharisee and seeking the truth about Jesus. Jesus gives some information that Nicodemus struggles to understand but it is also in this passage that Jesus gives us some of the most basic understanding of the gospel. Join us this week as we seek to understand the truth of Jesus and why John the Baptist is ready to become less.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY
SON, THAT EVERYONE WHO
BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT
PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

- JOHN 3:16

Conversation with Nicodemus

3 Now a certain man, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who was a member of the Jewish ruling council, ² came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time, can he?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must all be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus replied, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the solemn truth, we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I have told you people about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses *lifted up the serpent in the wilderness*, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

¹⁶ For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. ¹⁹ Now this is the basis for judging: that the light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil deeds hates the light and does not come to the light, so that their deeds will not be exposed. ²¹ But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, so that it may be plainly evident that his deeds have been done in God.

Further Testimony About Jesus by John the Baptist

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples came into Judean territory, and there he spent time with them and was baptizing. ²³ John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming to him and being baptized. ²⁴ (For John had not yet been thrown into prison.)

²⁵ Now a dispute came about between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew concerning ceremonial washing. ²⁶ So they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River, about whom you testified—see, he is baptizing, and everyone is flocking to him!"

²⁷ John replied, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You

yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but rather, 'I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly when he hears the bridegroom's voice. This then is my joy, and it is complete. ³⁰ He must become more important while I become less important."

³¹ The one who comes from above is superior to all. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is superior to all. ³² He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ The one who has accepted his testimony has confirmed clearly that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he does not give the Spirit sparingly. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed all things under his authority. ³⁶ The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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9.

10.

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. Why does Nicodemus go to see Jesus?
2. What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?
3. What are the observations that Jesus expects to be made about the wind? (8)
4. Did Jesus come so sinners would be condemned? Why did He come? (17)
5. Who is condemned? (18)
6. What does John mean by become less important? (30)

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

7. What does the coming of Jesus tell us about the love of God? How does it apply to us?

8. What is the main idea of this passage?

9. What is one way this passage impacts you this week?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes