

PURSUE

BUILDING FOR PEOPLE. BELIEVING FOR MORE.



Leader Guide

Pursue the Relationship (Nicodemus)

February 20, 2022

Main Passage: John 3:1-18

Theological Theme

Because of the sinfulness of man, no person is fit for heaven. Therefore, it is necessary that a person be made new, righteous in the sight of God. The only instrument by which a person might be reborn and saved is faith.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever tried to convince someone of imminent danger?
- ❓ How did they respond? What was the result?

For every person, the status quo leads to death. All have sinned against God and transgressed His law. All are bound for hell—an eternity without God—unless they are born again. This was Jesus's message to Nicodemus the night he came secretly to speak with Jesus. This continues to be the message for all people today.

1. A Necessary Salvation (John 3:1-13)

Nicodemus must have been shocked when Jesus said that unless he was born again, he would not see the kingdom of heaven. Nicodemus was a respected religious leader among God's chosen people. If anyone had any chance of seeing the kingdom of God, it would have been a Pharisee. They cared deeply about adherence to God's Law. In fact, they cared so much about God's law that they began to add rules on top of God's law so that they could be extra careful about obedience.

2. A Required Faith (John 3:14-17)

Faith has an object. The object of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ. Look at verses 15-16 and 18. Jesus said those who believe in Him will be saved. Saving faith focuses directly on Christ. The sinner who turns to Christ with true faith accepts Christ, receives Christ, and rests upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life.

3. A Coming Judgment (John 3:18-21)

Jesus made a startling remark to Nicodemus. He said, “but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God” (v. 18). Here Christ made clear that it isn’t only faith that has consequences, but also disbelief. Those who believe in Christ will have eternal life, but those who reject Him will have eternal death.

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC