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Leader Guide

He Gave His Only Son

January 15, 2023

Main Passage: John 1:1-5; 3:16; 1 Peter 1:13-22

Theological Theme

There is no one like Jesus. He is God's only Son. He was sent by God as the most incredible gift to us. God's plan for the redemption of man always included Jesus; He is our living hope. God's great love for us means He sent His most beloved Son to save us from our sins.

Introduction: As you open this week, have men sit together and women sit together to discuss the first question. Then come together again as you move to question 2.

- ? What type of gift giver are you? What type of gift receiver are you?
- ? Someone share how you saw God work in your prayer time for your lost friend.

1. The Father's Gift (John 1:1-5; 3:16)

The second phrase of John 3:16 tells us the gift God gave because of His great love for the whole world. Out of His love, God offers all people the opportunity to be redeemed and made right with Him. This could only be accomplished through Jesus Christ. So, God gave us His only beloved Son so that we can be forgiven of our sins. The perfect Lamb of God became the perfect once-for-all sacrifice.

- ? What is one of the unique characteristics of Jesus that stands out to you from John 1:1-5?
- ? Why is it important to know Jesus is unique?
- ? Application: How do you need to adjust your expectations of who Jesus is? What would change if you truly viewed Him as He is described in John 1?

2. Our Response (1 Peter 1:13-16)

As we better grasp who Jesus is and all He has done for us, there should be a response evident in our lives. Jesus is light and gives life. The way we choose to act, think, and speak makes a difference because we are always representing Christ to the people around us. We must take our own lives seriously so that we point others to Jesus.

- ? Why should believers be prepared for hard work?
- ? Why does it matter what you allow into your mind and what you focus your thoughts on?
- ? Application: In what area do you need to be more intentional about striving for holiness? What changes will you make?

3. The Call to Love (1 Peter 1:17-22)

Jesus set the ultimate example of love. Just as we are called to be holy as He is holy, we are also called to be like Him in other ways. Being holy means being set apart and one of the things that sets believers apart from the world is the way that we love. It may seem like an impossible calling to love like Jesus, but it is because of Him that we are able to love deeply.

- ❓ Application: Who do you need to show godly love to this week? How will you act?
- ❓ Continue to pray for this person daily by name this month.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. 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?*)
7. 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

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).