

“Home Groups” were founded on Jesus’ call to sacrificial love for one another. We describe these as “burden-bearing” relationships – a willingness to ‘carry the load’ with and for one another. You are always welcome to connect in a group through our website at [www.trinityonline.org](http://www.trinityonline.org).

### **DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?**

Can you remember the first time you heard John 3:16? What was your response?

### **LEARN FROM THE BIBLE**

We are walking through the amazing book of “John,” an account of Jesus’ life. Our setting is a meeting at night with Jesus and Nicodemus, an expert in the Old Testament. Jesus told him that he must be born again, born from above, to see and enter the kingdom of God. In this passage, Jesus continues in the theme of who enters the kingdom and who remains condemned.

### **READ JOHN 3:14-21**

This is a very significant and loaded passage. Summarize the statements made in each verse.

14 -

15 -

16 -

17 -

18 -

19 -

20 -

21 -

Read the passage about the serpent in the wilderness in Numbers 21:4-9. Why did God send snakes? What saved the people?

In verse 14, Jesus said "even so must the Son of Man [Jesus] be lifted up." What do we learn from the following references?

John 5:26; 11:25

John 12:32

Mark 8:31; 10:45

What is the purpose of Jesus being "lifted up?" (15-16)

STUDY NOTE: In verse 15, the writer, John, uses the phrase, "eternal life," a phrase that John employs sixteen times. A literal translation could be, "life of the age to come." That "age to come" begins once someone has been "born again" (v. 3) and will continue forever.

What we do learn about God's character, plans, and mission in vs. 14-17.

How does verse 16 summarize the good news of Jesus?

STUDY NOTE: Jesus is the "light" that has come into the world; He reveals God, our current standing, and His mission to save.

Summarize the fate and the practices of those who "believe" and those who do "not believe" in verses 18-21. (include why some prefer darkness)

"Believe"

"Do not believe"

What might be the purposes of John including these statements (18-21)? How is this still important to understand today? (Perhaps also see 1 John 1:5-10)

## DISCUSS TOGETHER

What do we learn about the heart of God from this week's passage?

If we were reading John 3:16 with a friend, why might it be important to continue reading through verse 21 or even the end of the chapter (verse 36)?

Discuss the contrast of those who prefer darkness or light. What might this passage indicate about ourselves or people that we know? How are deeds involved? How is this connected with what it means to "believe?"

## JESUS CALLS US TO PRAY

- Please pray for the many who are suffering, both at Trinity and around the world
- Please pray for your adopted global partners
- Please pray for our elders as they pray and consider many big decisions
- Please pray for our expression of love through Micah House, Food boxes, and the Trinity family as we love our neighbors and friends