

# Chapter 3

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ

### The Good News

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

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With these words, Jesus clearly communicates to us:

- The heart of the Father: *God so loved the world...*
- The plan of the Father: *He gave His only begotten Son*
- The will of the Father: *Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

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- In this study we will learn about the gospel (or good news) of Jesus Christ. We will take a look at this familiar verse and others that tell the story of God's love for the world, and the simplicity of salvation through faith.
- All Christians should commit John 3:16 to memory. It describes the greatest demonstration of love the world will ever see.

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### **One person put it this way:**

God:	The greatest lover
So loved:	The greatest degree of love ever shown
The world:	The greatest number of people loved at one time
That He gave:	The greatest act of love
His only begotten Son:	The greatest gift that love has ever given

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That whosoever:	The greatest invitation that love has ever made
Believes:	The greatest simplicity for receiving love
In Him:	The greatest person for love to respond to
Should not perish:	The greatest deliverance of love
But:	The greatest difference love can make
Have:	The greatest certainty
Everlasting life:	The greatest possession of love <sup>55</sup>

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## Part One: The Heart of the Father

*God so loved the world...*

1. Jesus made this statement while talking to a pharisee by the name of Nicodemus who had come to see Him one night.
  - 1) Read John 3:3. Before Nicodemus could even ask Jesus a question, we are told that Jesus "*answers*" him. Write out what Jesus said below:

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2. The most important thing that Nicodemus needed to know was how to be born again. What was Nicodemus' response? (John 3:4)

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3. Read John 3:5-15. In your own words, what did Jesus tell Him?

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- Jesus told Nicodemus that He came down from heaven, and then He reminded him of something that happened to the nation of Israel that Nicodemus would have been very familiar with—the story of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness

4. Read Numbers 21:4-9. What instruction was given to the people in order that they would not die from a serpent's bite?

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5. How did Jesus compare this story to the cross?  
(John 3:14-15)

- ***John 3:14 NKJV "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.***

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- Jesus used this story as a foreshadowing of His own crucifixion. He gave Nicodemus a picture of the simplicity of the gospel. What could be easier than just looking? This is a beautiful picture for us as well. As many as looked at that serpent were saved.
- Similarly, all who look to Jesus will be saved.
- ***"Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).***

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6. Read Romans 5:6-8. How does this Scripture help you understand the depth of Christ's love for you

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## Part Two: The Plan of the Father

### *He gave His only begotten Son*

- God's plan of salvation is born of His love for the people He has created.

1. Read Psalm 14:2-3 and Romans 3:23. What is said in these passages about man's condition?

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2. Write out Romans 5:8 below.

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- Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. These verses say you have received something. What have you received?
- 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to \_\_\_\_\_ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

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4. What do you need to do in order to receive an inheritance?

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5. Read Romans 6:23. An inheritance isn't something that you have earned, or even that you deserve. An inheritance is a gift. In your own words, briefly describe the inheritance that you have received in Christ.

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- In Romans 3:23 you learned that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- Some other Scriptures that talk about the glory of God are:
  - *Psalm 19:1 which says, "The heavens declare the glory of God"*
  - *Isaiah 6:3 says that, "the whole earth is full of His glory"*
  - *John 1:14 says that in Jesus Christ "we beheld [God's] glory"*

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- Read John 17:10, and write down in whom Jesus says He is glorified
  - **John 17:10** *"And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified \_\_\_\_\_ .*
  - *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God. — 1 John 3:1*

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### **Part Three: The Will of the Father**

*Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

1. Read Romans 10:9. What two things do you need to do according to this verse to be saved?
  - Romans 10:9  
that if you \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth the Lord Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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2. Read Romans 10:13. In this verse, who is salvation available to?

Romans 10:13

For " \_\_\_\_\_ calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

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3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In this passage we have a clear presentation of the gospel message. Answer the following questions:

a) How are we saved?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why did Christ die?

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) When did He rise again?

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) What was this all according to?  
Why is this important?

d) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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4) Write out Mark 16:15 below.  
What are we called to do?

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Take a moment to thank God for the person (or persons) He sent into your life to share the gospel with you. Pray that He will give you opportunities to share with someone else who needs to know about the inheritance<sub>71</sub> that is theirs in Jesus Christ