

Bible Study: John 3:16 - The Gospel in One Verse

Overview of Study: This Bible study explores the heart of the gospel through John 3:16, showing how God’s love is personal, sacrificial, and redemptive. Using five symbols (a heart, a broken world, a cross, a circle, and a question mark), we walk through the complete story of salvation and respond to the invitation it offers.

Key Points:

1. **The Heart – God Loves You**
 - God created the universe with intention and purpose: to have a relationship with you.
 - His love is personal and specific—He knows you by name and still loves you fully.
2. **The Broken World – We Broke the Relationship**
 - Sin entered through disobedience. Every person has fallen short.
 - Sin is believing we know better than God and choosing our way over His.
3. **The Cross – Jesus Paid the Price**
 - Only Jesus could restore the relationship. He lived a perfect life and died for our sins.
 - Salvation is not earned—it is a gift from God through faith in Jesus.
4. **The Circle – Eternal Life is Given**
 - Jesus rose again and offers us eternal life.
 - Eternal life begins now with relationship, purpose, and the Holy Spirit.
5. **The Question Mark – What is Your Response?**
 - Salvation is available, but it requires a response.
 - Excuses do not change the truth: God loves you, Jesus died for you, and eternal life is offered to you.

Reflective Questions:

- What does it mean to you personally that God loves you specifically—not just the world generally?
- Have you ever tried to “fix” your life apart from God? What happened?
- What does the cross represent to you today?
- How does knowing eternal life is a gift change the way you live?
- What is stopping you from fully trusting Jesus today?

Action Steps:

1. **Reflect** on how God’s love is personal. Write down moments when you’ve seen His hand in your life.
2. **Confess** anything you've tried to control on your own. Invite Jesus to take full leadership.
3. **Pray** and thank God for loving you, even in your mess. Ask Him to deepen your understanding of the gospel.
4. **Share** John 3:16 with someone this week and tell them why it matters to you.

5. **Commit** to a next step: trusting Jesus, getting baptized, joining a Bible-believing church, or re-engaging with your faith community.

Conclusion: God's message is simple and clear: He loves you, we need Him, Jesus made a way, and now we must decide. John 3:16 isn't just a verse—it's an invitation. Will you accept it today?