



Covenant Group Guide - January 23, 2022

Group Meetings:

A good way to organize your group discussion is to focus on the sermon and preaching passage from Sunday. This week's preaching passage is: **John 3:1-21**. Reflect on the passage and the sermon together and share words and thoughts that stood out to you from both. If you weren't able to hear the sermon on Sunday, it can be viewed on the church's YouTube page.

Here are some questions that may help you begin your conversation:

1. At the beginning of this passage, Nicodemus approaches Jesus at night. Why do you think he has chosen this hour? What does this passage say about darkness and light?
2. As a Pharisee and member of the ruling council, Nicodemus would have been a very knowledgeable and highly regarded man. Notice he addresses Jesus with the words, *"Rabbi, we know..."* Instead of this knowledge leading to belief, Pastor Clint suggested that his knowledge was likely a hindrance to faith. What do you think? Do you think knowing a lot about God could cause someone to struggle to believe in Jesus?
3. Belief is not solely an action of the mind. It is not based primarily on what we know. Jesus uses a scene from Israel's history to make this point. Read Numbers 21:4-9. What would cause someone to look at the snake on the pole? What might hinder them from looking? How does this scene from the book of Numbers inform the question, *"What does it mean to believe in Jesus?"*

Personal Daily Readings:

The daily readings listed below follow the Narrative Lectionary for 2021-2022. As the name suggests, as you read each day's passage, spend time reflecting on how God's story continues to unfold through the scriptures and how we are connected to it.

This week's readings

Sunday: John 3:1-21

Thursday: Matthew 11:2-6

Monday: John 3:22-30

Friday: Matthew 11:7-15

Tuesday: John 3:31-36

Saturday: Matthew 11:16-19

Wednesday: Luke 3:19-20



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As you read each day consider the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. What do you learn about Jesus?
3. What from the passage can I apply to my life?

Covenant Group Guide Typical Meeting Format

1. Spend time throughout the week reading the daily Scripture passages.
2. Spend time sharing and getting to know each other.
3. Open scripture time in prayer
4. Briefly review last week's lesson
5. Read the current week's scripture as a group
6. Go through the Covenant Group Guide questions
7. As your group goes through the questions, encourage one another to bring up words or phrases that stick out to each person for further conversation.
8. As you close, be sure to take notes of words or ideas the group would like to investigate further.
9. Determine how you would like to go about gaining additional information regarding those words or ideas. (The church staff and pastors are able to assist as needed)
10. Share joys and concerns and close in prayer.