

Look again at verses 3-10, what evil does the light expose in Nicodemus and humanity?

These verses have exposed humanity's vanity and desire to be in control as useless and actually an impediment to spiritual growth.

Discuss the alternative God offers (verse 16), what is received when we come into the light?

What is the only thing we can do to come into the light and receive all God's blessings?

Finish by praying for each other. Pray that we would all experience the newness and joy that Jesus brings and that is ours because of the forgiveness and new life he has won for us on the cross. Pray that others would be drawn to want to know Jesus as they see the difference he has made in our lives.



A Light in the Darkness

The Gospel of John

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 3

19 February 2023

“Look to Jesus”

John 2:23-3:21

Series Overview:

In this ten week series, we will look at a Gospel book that is quite different to the other three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). John wrote this book much later than the other writers, and used a different technique and style. We will reflect on passages and stories that are unique to this Gospel, and seek to capture the passion and desire of the author. John primarily wrote this letter so that the readers would believe in Christ, who he describes as a Light in the Darkness. May the Light of Christ shine into our lives as we spend time in this book, and help us to believe in the One who came to bring life in all of its abundance.

Read John 2:23-3:21

How are 'people' portrayed in this passage? Make a list of any positive comments and another for negative comments then share with the group.

Based on this and other clues, Pastor Paul argued that Nicodemus was the villain seeking to bring Jesus into his religious party where he can be controlled.

How would you picture Nicodemus – Villain / Victim / Hero?

Why?

Share with each other what "born again" means to you and how you can know you are born again. Please be respectful of views that may differ to your own.

Read verses 6-8, who decides if a person is "born again"?

Also read Ezekiel 36:22-27, which talks about God's people receiving a new heart and a new spirit. How much do the people contribute to this change and how much is Gods doing?

By using the pronoun "we" Nicodemus identifies himself as speaking on behalf of the Jewish ruling council and the Pharisees. In verse 11 Jesus also uses "we", to whom is he referring?

John uses the metaphor of 'light' and 'darkness'. What two effects can light have on people? (vs 19-21)