



# THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE

**John 3:16-19**  
**Week of March 12, 2023**

**Belong:** *Use this as a time to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and belong to the group.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, Would you rather never use emojis again or never spell right again?
- Or, Is there something you're kind of snobby about? What is it and Why?

**How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

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**Believe:** *Read this week assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that speaks to you. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have someone in the group read **John 3:16-19** aloud.

In **John 3:16**, we see the core of Christianity: that God loved the world enough to come as Jesus, and to die for us, so that anyone who trusts in Him will be saved from sin. This verse is a one-sentence summary of the gospel. Still, the verses which follow are just as critical for understanding the Christian message. Christ wasn't sent to judge the world, but to bring salvation. This is an expression of God's incredible love. However, those who do not believe in Jesus Christ are condemned in the eyes of God. Human preference for sin causes many to choose darkness over the Light.

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**Build:** *Engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning. Ask why it was written, who was it written to, and what is the author trying to say to the **original audience**. Be sure to pay attention to the **context** to help you understand the meaning. How does it fit with the verses before and after it?*

Why do you think **John 3:16** is one of the most famous verses in the Bible?

- What does the world **HOPE** **verse 16** tells us about God's love?
- In **verse 16**, what are the 2 destinies of the world that Jesus mentions? [perishing & eternal life]
  - What do these 2 destinies [and there are only 2] reveal about God's love & judgment?

What did God do so we could have eternal life and not perish? [He gave His Son, Jesus Christ]

Why did God make a way for us to receive eternal life and not perish?

## **Become:** *Application is the heart of the process. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

What do **verses 16-18** say about the status of the world that Jesus enters?

- Does Jesus enter into a neutral world, a world favorable to Jesus (**John 1:10-11**), or a world that is perishing and stands opposed to Jesus?
- How does the above question of the world Jesus entered apply to our mission/ministry in Portland? What world do we find ourselves ministering in?
- How does **John 3:36** encourage us to be more about the mission?

We've talked a lot recently about being focused on God in a world of distractions. Primarily we've discussed this within the context of the believer. **BUT**, what about those who do not believe...it means their faith, trust, and confidence are placed in something other than Jesus.

- According to **verse 18**, what is the result of not believing on Jesus?
- What result is implied in **verse 16b**?
- Are their people/ members at FBC Portland who fall into this category?
  - If so, what does this reveal?

Have someone read aloud **Romans 8:1-9**.

- What is true of every person who believes on Jesus according to **Romans 8:1**?
- **Romans 8:6**, shows there are 2 different mindsets. What are the consequences of the two different mindsets? In other words, where do they lead?

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## **Begin:** *It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?  
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time—sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## **Additional Resources:**

**Blue Letter Bible: John 3:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin: John 3:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

