

IT'S
3:16

A 7-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

1

**Loved,
Gave**

-

**Believe,
Have**

Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another. Since this may be your first time together (or since you may have new members), take a few minutes to make sure everyone knows each other.

What is the weirdest or funniest gift you have ever received? Do you still own that gift?

Play the *“Session One: Loved, Gave // Believe, Have”* video lesson.

What stood out to you from the video?

In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.

Read John 3:16-21

1. How do the words of John 3:16 change the way we think about God? How do they change the way we think about ourselves? How do they change the way we live and act in the world?



**For God so
loved the
world that
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and only
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JOHN 3:16

2. During the video session, we learned that the love of God and the sacrifice of Jesus are the engines that drive the Christian life. Why is this true? How does God's love inspire and motivate you to grow in your faith and character?

3. If you are willing, share your personal story of how you came to faith in the Lord. What ultimately led you to make the decision to follow Jesus? What were some events in your life that helped lead you to that decision?

4. How does the love of God act like a shining light, revealing to us the truth about who we are and the truth about the world? Why might a person reject the truthful love of God in favor of a lie?

5. What are some barriers in your mind and heart that make it difficult to accept God's unconditional love for you? How can you take one step this week toward getting past those barriers?

Read John 14:5-14

6. According to what Jesus reveals about Himself in these verses, why is Jesus the only way to the Father? How does Jesus reveal the truth about what God is like? What does it mean when Jesus says that He is the “life?”

7. Why does Jesus claim in John 14:12 that anyone who has faith in Him will do greater things than what He had done during His ministry? What does this claim teach us about the work Christ calls us to do during our lives?

For over a thousand years, Christians have used the Scriptures to practice a simple form of meditation called lectio divina. In Latin, the practice means “divine reading,” and millions of believers throughout history have found wisdom and comfort from this ancient practice. Each week during this series, we will guide you through a version of this meditation practice that you can use either in a group or on your own.

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of meditation.

1

Read the words of John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Read those words several times over a few minutes, paying attention to every small detail. Focus on anything that stands out.

2

Imagine that the Holy Spirit is speaking the words of this verse directly to you. Pay attention to how you feel as the Spirit speaks to you. Notice the thoughts that pass through your mind. Spend a few minutes meditating upon what the Spirit is saying to you.

3

Shift from a time of meditation to a time of prayer. Use the next few minutes to share with God what you think and feel about the word He spoke to you. Bring up any questions you might have for Him. Ask Him to lead you to understand and experience His truth.

4

In order to end this prayer meditation, simply sit in silence for a few minutes and listen to what the Spirit says to you. Notice what the Lord is teaching you through His word. When your time of silence is complete, thank the Lord for guiding you into His wisdom and love.

During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a “perfect” answer. Simply write what comes to mind.

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

*Ten years from now, what do you want your spiritual life to look like?
What would be your ideal life with God?*

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports