

# JOHN

## Chapter 3

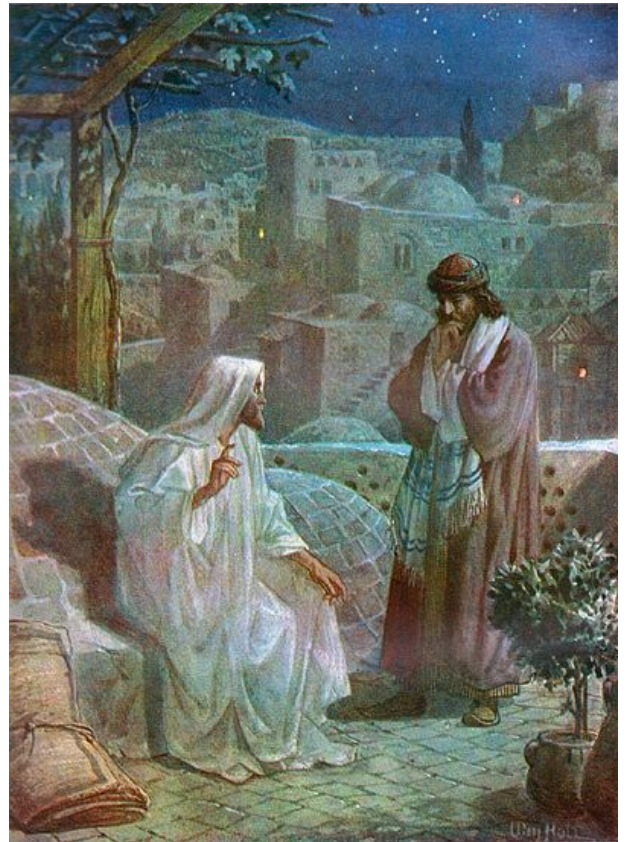
### Note from Kathy

*Have you ever taken a question to God, only to feel as though He is answering a different question than what you asked Him? Bringing our questions to God does not guarantee we will get the answer we are expecting. Often, God lovingly sees our hearts and leads us to address our real needs, even if we have not seen them yet. He is far more interested in our holiness than our happiness. As you come to God in study this week, pray that He will lead you to the truth you truly need, and that you will have a teachable heart.*

### Observation

1. John 3 opens by introducing us to a man. What was his name, and what did you learn about him?

2. Because of this man's heritage and position he would have been accustomed to people coming to him with their questions. But, now, he was looking for answers to his questions. Verse 2 tells us he came to Jesus at night. What does this action tell us about Nicodemus?



3. Define these words?

Pharisee

Rabbi

Born Again

4. What did Nicodemus say he knew about Jesus, and how did he know this?

### Ezekiel 36:25-28

*"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup>Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your god."*

### Numbers 21:5-9

*"they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food.' <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived."*

### Romans 5:6-8

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

5. Jesus will never turn away those who seek the truth. Jesus saw the true desire of Nicodemus' heart. In verse 3, what fact did Jesus share with him?
6. Nicodemus is confused. He questions Jesus trying to gain an understanding. Jesus is not deterred by Nicodemus' questions. Jesus directs him to the need of every man, woman and child. What is that need?
7. Just as a man is born physically and has a beginning, so he must have a spiritual birth to begin a spiritual life. This leader of the Pharisees would have been familiar with Ezekiel 36:25-28, when Jesus spoke of the water and the spirit in John 3:5. What was he referring to?
8. Jesus draws Nicodemus' attention to the wind, in order to help him understand the working of God's spirit and new birth. The wind is an act of nature that cannot be seen. How do we sense its presence?
9. Nicodemus was a leader among the Pharisees—they were religious teachers of that day. The Pharisees had easy access to all the Old Testament writings, and yet, he did not have a true understanding about the way of salvation. Sadly, Nicodemus was not saved this day. His willingness to acknowledge that Jesus was a teacher sent from God who performed miracles was not a profession of faith. Intellectual assent is not enough to provide salvation. Jesus does not get discouraged; he simply continues to give him truth to ponder, Jesus presents it very clearly for Nicodemus. He uses a story from Numbers 21 that Nicodemus would be familiar with to help him understand the truth about salvation. What Old Testament history event does Jesus recount?
10. John 3:16 may be the most well-known and quoted verse from the Bible. Notice it says, "God so loved the world he gave..." What did God give? To whom did he give this amazing gift?

Read Romans 5:6-8. Write a description of the recipients of God's amazing gift and the objects of his matchless love.

11. In John 3:16 we see the initiator of this great love is \_\_\_\_\_  
The recipients are \_\_\_\_\_  
The gift is \_\_\_\_\_

### John 3:17-18

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him.*

*<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

### John 3:22

*"After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized."*

### John 1:7, 23, 36

*"<sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>23</sup>John replied in words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look the Lamb of God.'"*

The span of this great love is extended to \_\_\_\_\_

The duration of this great love is \_\_\_\_\_

12. The fact that Jesus clearly stated that "God so loved the world" must have been confusing in itself. The Israelite people thought God only loved \_\_\_\_\_.
13. In verses 17-18 what do we learn is God's purpose for sending Jesus into the world?
14. According to John 3:18, what is the sin that sends people to hell? Is it murder, stealing or perhaps adultery or some other horrendous crime?
15. In a court of law the verdict or judgment is handed down after all the facts are presented. What is the verdict or judgment clearly stated in verses 19-21? What is the distinguishing mark of a true believer?
16. Verse 22 begins, "after this," referring to when Jesus finishes speaking with Nicodemus. What does he do afterward?
17. Jesus' travels take him very near to where John the Baptist is ministering and baptizing. What does verse 26 say happens when Jesus comes near?
18. Some of John's followers seemed upset. How would you describe John's reply in verses 27-30? What character quality does this reveal about John?
19. John did not allow envy to make him forget his mission. What did he say his mission was? Refer to verses John 1:7, 23, 36.
20. Throughout this chapter there are four "musts" listed (depending on your Bible translation). Find them and write them below.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
21. Briefly state John's description of Jesus found in the above verses.

### Matthew 7:7

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

### 1 Samuel 2:2

*"There is no one holy like the LORD."*

### Revelation 4:8

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

### Romans 3:23

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

### Isaiah 53:6

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way."*

### John 3:16

*"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."*

### 1 John 4:8

*"God is love..."*

### John 3:17-18

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

## Application

1. Could you relate to the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night to get some of his questions answered? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you worry what people might think when you first became interested in spiritual things? \_\_\_\_\_ What were you afraid would happen?
2. Jesus made it very clear that there are two types of births that each of us must participate in: our physical birth and our spiritual birth. Do you understand this truth? Read what Jesus says in Matthew 7:7, "Notice, there are questions which may involve continuous and repeated action on the part of the one asking. Are you willing to wait for God's answer? What qualities do you believe will develop?"
3. Do you think of yourself as not too bad a person? \_\_\_\_\_ Often people say something like, "Well, I may not be perfect, but there are plenty of people worse than me." Unlike your college professor, God does not grade on a curve. What does the Bible say about the holiness of God and the state of mankind in 1 Samuel 2:2 and Revelation 4:8?

Admitting that we are sinners and that our sin separates us from a holy God can be hard. Life is too short to procrastinate or put off facing the truth. And eternity is too long to be wrong. Read Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6.

But, God is merciful. Read John 3:16 and 1 John 4:8.

God is merciful, but he is also just. If he were not just then he would not be true to his word. He would not be the righteous judge. Exodus 34:7 says, "he will by no means clear the guilty..."

Paul speaking to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:8 says, "Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." Do you long for him to appear?

4. As much as we might want to do something to make up for our sin, there is nothing we can do to redeem ourselves. But the good news is we do not need to—it has been done for us. Read John 3:17-18.

In Acts 16:29-31, a jailer fell down before Paul and Silas and asked them what he must do to be saved. They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." So, what must we do to have our sins forgiven and be made right with God?

**Ephesians 5:8**

*“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...”*

**Psalms 119:105**

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”*

5. Nicodemus came as a seeker of truth. He wanted to be face-to-face with Jesus and get some answers. Did you see yourself in any part of this chapter? If so, what were the similarities in your quest for truth?
6. Why are some people drawn to the Light?
7. Why do some people go to great lengths to avoid the Light?
8. What should an individual's lifestyle look like if they truly believe in Jesus and follow him?
9. As believers, how does our walk affect others around us?
10. In what way has God's word changed your heart over these first three chapters?



# Map of Jesus' Ministry

