

THE GOSPEL

according to John

'Written so that you may believe'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

4th Session **THEME: Which teacher we need to become believers**

1. Icebreaker & prayer 10 minutes to get started

A church needs a new pastor. One of your friends is part of the committee that makes a preselection of candidates. This friend asks you: what should we look for in a new pastor, according to your opinion? What would you answer?

2. Read: John 3 10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

Structure of this passage:

- Vs. 1-10: The well-known teacher, who lacks understanding
 - Vs. 11-21: The true Teacher, sent from God, whose words are words of the Spirit as well
 - Vs. 22-36: The helpful teacher, who helps to find the true Teacher
- Look again at 2:23-25. Jesus saw a problem in Nicodemus, the well-known teacher. Which problem?
 - Last time we saw that the temple lacked proper worship. What does this have to do with Nicodemus?
 - Look again at 11-21. These verses summarise the whole Gospel. How would you summarise these verses?
 - Look again at 22-36. Why is John happy, while he loses disciples? What should we learn from that?

3. Look again at: John 3 10 – 15 minutes to answer these questions

True teaching has the aim that people begin to believe in Jesus, become children of God and find everlasting life. True teaching rejoices in people who find Jesus, the true Bridegroom. It also affirms that not to believe and to obey has serious consequences (see vs. 18, 36). Look back at your answers at the icebreaker question – would you answer it exactly the same, or would you adapt/change your answer? Take some minutes of silence to think about this and to think about what the lesson was for you today. Share

4. End with prayer

Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

We already saw how Isaiah provides background information to understand John's Gospel. The same applies to the book of Numbers. A book that is largely about the themes of faith/unbelief. As Moses and the Lord were continually rejected and not believed by a first generation, a new generation still struggled with similar problems, but they had learnt from the past and repented. In Numbers 21:4-9 you find a story that is helpful to understand John 3 more deeply. NB after the story about the serpent, Numbers continues with Israel finding a well. See how this matches with John 4!

Teaser for the next meeting:

Next time we read John 4:1-46. See how the passage fits in the whole storyline: Ch. 2:1-11 (no wine on wedding), 2:12-25 (no worship of the Bridegroom Lord in temple), 3 (teacher with no understanding, verses the true Teacher and the teacher who is friend of the Bridegroom), 4 (woman without true husband and woman and city without true worship, listening to Jesus and the witness they find the Saviour of the world).