

reachONE

REACHING... Nicodemus

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor

February 2, 2014

John 3:1-16

INTRODUCTION

► Overarching Goal of the Church: Make Disciples

► Pathway to Discipleship

- ❶ Connect – With God through faith in Christ / With a church through baptism & membership
- ❷ Grow – Vertically in relationship with God / Horizontally in relationships with others
- ❸ Serve – Discovering & utilizing your God-given “hard wiring” in helping others
- ❹ Reach – Helping those outside the family of God to get in

REACH ONE INSERT

► Start with prayer: Text “Reach” to 313131

REACHING NICODEMUS

Truth Time: There is usually a degree of anxiety attached to sharing our faith.

PRINCIPLE #1: People just know when someone genuinely cares about them. (1 Peter 4:8)

► WHO (was this guy)?

- Pharisee
- Member of the Sanhedrin
- Off the charts religious
- Searching

PRINCIPLE #2: We should never presume that anyone is closed to the Gospel.

► WHERE (was this encounter)? Somewhere around Jerusalem... neutral turf

PRINCIPLE #3: The natural crossroads of life are the best place for reaching people.

- Matthew 28:19 – “As you are going...”

► WHEN (did this encounter occur)? At night

PRINCIPLE #4: Look for a common bridge & then walk across it.

PRINCIPLE #5: Speak the “heart language” of the person you are addressing.

- ❶ Passionately interested in the Kingdom of God
- ❷ Understanding of life on two plains... physical & spiritual
- ❸ Concern for teaching complex issues clearly
- ❹ Love for metaphors & obscure Bible passages

PRINCIPLE #6: Give people time & space to unpack & embrace spiritual truths.

- I will text “Reach” to 313131 so that I am reminded to pray for ONE person for ONE minute at ONE pm every day this month.
- I want to be born again, I asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord & Savior for the first time today.
- I rededicated my life to Christ today.



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Lesson Aim: *To grow in our understanding and application of God's heart to reach people that don't know Him... and begin to learn how to become "REACHERS" ourselves.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Ice-breaker: Thinking back on Pastor Scott's message this weekend, what's one thing that really stood out to you?

1. **READ John 3:1-2.** Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night (in secret)?
2. In spite of the risks he was taking, why do you think Nicodemus still pushed ahead to meet with Jesus?
3. Has God ever placed a "Nicodemus" in your life? Tell your group about it.
4. **READ John 3:3-13.** What did Jesus claim to be able to do? Why do you think Nicodemus had such a hard time understanding this?
5. Based on your experience, what are some things that confuse people about Jesus today?

6. **READ John 3:14-21.** Which parts of this message are easier for you to talk about with people that don't know Jesus? Why?
7. Which parts are more difficult for you to talk about with people who don't know Jesus? Why?
8. When you think about the idea of "Each One Reach One" and sharing the message of Jesus with others, who are some people who come to mind?
9. What do you think will make it challenging for you to share about Jesus with those people who came to mind?
10. Take some time in your group to talk about ways you can overcome these challenges. Please be sure to both share *and* listen to each other.

Close in prayer, taking time to pray (by name) for the people you mentioned who don't yet know Jesus. Also pray for each other to have the heart of Jesus and His guidance as you strive to reach others for Him (if your LifeGroup is large you may want to break up into smaller groups to do this).

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.