

Reflection Questions: John 3:16 (Part 3)

For the message, "Whoever Believes In Him" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on December 15, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray: Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have eternal life."

A summary of the message: The words from the lips of Jesus tell us that His gospel calls us to recognize its exclusivity ("in Him"), declare its universality ("whoever"), and embrace its simplicity ("believes").

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Jesus tells us that God's gift of salvation is found "in Him," that is, in the gift of God's Son Jesus. Do you find that easy to believe or difficult? How does this challenge the thinking of our culture?
- At the same time, the truth that God's gift of salvation in Jesus is available to "whoever," speaks to its universality, that is, no one is excluded from the offer of God's gift. How does this speak to God's amazing grace, especially in light of the truth that there is no one who is righteous, no one who seeks after God (cf. Romans 3:10-11)?
- What happens when we forget that our relationship with God is based on God's grace to us in Christ, not our performance? When I forget this, what lies fill that vacuum?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What would a community of faith look like that really believed that God's gift of grace is given freely in His Son? What would mark our worship? Our life together? What would be the aroma of our gatherings?
- How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission? What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? In other words, how are these words of Jesus good news for our neighbors no matter what their upbringing, their beliefs, their experiences?