

Introduction: We are going to discover how to obtain eternal life.

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.

John 3:16 (NIV)

Three questions 3:16 raises:

1. What is eternal life?
2. What does it mean to believe?
3. Where did this 3:16 come from?

Discovering how to obtain eternal life from John 3

What does John Chapter 3 _____?

- Context: What is genuine faith? John 2:23-24
- Structure: Two specific sections – Nicodemus and John the Baptist

- Observations: Nicodemus' private meeting John 3:1-21
 1. He is an elite member of the Jewish rulers.
 2. He comes by night.
 3. He recognizes Jesus has been sent by God. (the miracles)
 4. He is confronted with his need of a second birth.
 5. He does not understand how that is possible.
 6. Kingdom entrance (eternal life) requires a physical and spiritual birth.
 7. Jesus is surprised that a “teacher” of Israel does not comprehend this truth.
 8. Jesus reveals His origin and teaching are from heaven.
 9. Jesus predicts His death and its benefit, as a parallel to Moses and the serpent. (Numbers 21:4-9)
 10. Jesus promises eternal life to whoever believes.
 11. Jesus came to rescue not condemn the world.
 12. Jesus reveals why some refuse to believe.

- Observations: John the Baptist's public endorsement John 3: 22-36
 1. John and Jesus both baptize in the countryside.
 2. John's disciples are concerned – John rejoices.
 3. John clarifies his role and affirms Jesus' identity.
 4. John affirms Jesus has been sent from God and is God – the Son.
 5. Whoever believes on Jesus has (present possession) eternal life.
 6. Those who choose willfully to reject the Son of God, live (present possession) with God's wrath upon them.

What does John Chapter 3 _____?

- Questions to consider: To understand John 3
1. Why did Nicodemus want to talk with Jesus?
Why at night?
 2. What does it mean to be “born again?”
Why does Jesus lead with this challenge to a moral, good, religious leader?
 3. Why was Jesus surprised that Nicodemus did not understand his need for a spiritual birth? (see Ezekiel 36:25-27)
 4. On what authority does Jesus speak to a “teacher” of Israel?
 5. How would the Old Testament illustration from *Numbers 21:4-9* clarify Jesus’ teaching to Nicodemus?
 6. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this spiritual birth?
 7. What promise did Jesus make to Nicodemus and to all people concerning eternal life?
How is this different from how Nicodemus expected to receive eternal life?
 8. What exactly is eternal life? (see John 17:3)
 9. What was God’s motivation in sending Christ to live and then be “lifted up” (die)?
 10. Why don’t all people respond positively to such a gracious offer of life now and forever?
 11. Why is John the Baptist’s endorsement important?
 12. When does eternal life begin?
 13. What is meant by the wrath of God?

What does John Chapter 3 mean to _____?

1. Being a _____ and _____ person does not merit or earn eternal life. John 3:1-2
2. Spiritual life demands a spiritual _____. John 3:3
3. God loves you and wants to give you _____ _____ as a free gift. John 3:16
4. Eternal life begins the _____ you receive Jesus Christ as your _____ and Lord. John 3:36
5. We must _____ Christ by faith to begin a lifelong relationship with God. John 1:12
6. You can receive Christ _____ by placing your trust in His death and resurrection as the sole basis for the forgiveness of your sins and become a member of God's family forever.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you received eternal life? When? Share your story.
2. Who do you know who needs to hear this message?
3. When and how might you share John 3 with someone you care about?