

PREACHING CURRICULUM

For God so Loved

John 3:1-21

For God so loved the world...

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read John 3:1-15. In your own words, describe the situation that provides the context for verses 16 and following. What is happening, and what is being discussed?

Read John 3:16-21. Verse 16 says that “God” loved the world. Who is this God? Who or what was John thinking about when he wrote this?

Who or what is the “world”? What is meant by this term?

According to this passage, how did God demonstrate his love for the world? Why is it so shocking that God loves the world? Why don't we tend to be shocked when we hear about God's love?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

On a heart level, do you deeply and truly believe that God loves you? Why or why not? Why is it often so difficult to believe that God loves us? What tends to get in the way?

How does the Bible define “love”? How does the biblical definition of love compare and contrast with other definitions of love which are popular today?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Which comes first—our love for God, or God's love for us? In other words, does God love us *because we love him*, or *is it the other way around*? Why does the order matter? How would your beliefs on this matter affect your attitude, actions, and outlook on life?

How does God's amazing love for us in Jesus Christ inform, motivate, and empower our love for God and other people? How would our lives be affected if we truly and deeply believed it? What does it look like for a Christian to be arrested and captivated by God's love?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How might God's love for you affect how you live your life this week? How might you celebrate and marvel at God's love? How might you demonstrate that love to others?

