

NICODEMUS

THE MAN WHO CAME AT NIGHT



BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES



Christ to the World Ministries

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CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES



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Christ to the World Ministries is a non profit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

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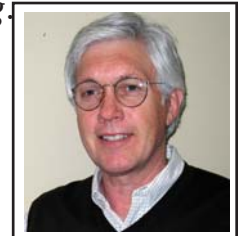
Dear Friend,

I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.

This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.

May God bless you richly,

*Larry Alston
Christ to the World Ministries*



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study about the conversion of one of the smartest and most religious men in the Bible, Nicodemus.

This Bible study will help you gain a better understanding of God’s plan of salvation. You will understand the meaning and importance of being “born again.” You will understand how you yourself can be born again and have eternal life. The story in the Scripture demonstrates the love and willingness of Jesus to save every person. The story shows that position and prestige and religion cannot save a person. Only Christ can save

You can write in this study guide. Don’t keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to respond, don’t simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. No one else will see what you write.

As writer, I will work along with you as you complete your study. I will share with you my own responses to most of the questions and activities. This does not mean that my responses are any more correct than yours; it simply means that you will have the benefit of a fellow traveler walking beside you as you move through the study.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete the study. When asked to read a passage of Scripture, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let’s get started.

Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.

Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen

THE SCRIPTURE

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these things? 11 I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “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. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come to the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

John 3:1-21

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.

47 “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. 48 “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?”

38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

John 19:38-42

BACKGROUND AND SETTING

It is early in the ministry of Jesus. John the Baptist has baptized him. Satan has tempted him in the desert.

He has called his first disciples to follow him. He has attended a wedding at the village of Cana in Galilee and performed his first miracle by turning six large jars of water into wine.

It was time for the annual Jewish Passover when the Jews celebrated their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Jesus and his disciples travel down to Jerusalem to attend the feast.

In the temple courts he finds a lively business going on, with merchants selling animals for sacrifice and exchanging money so worshippers could pay the temple tax.

Read John 2:15-16. In the space below, write what Jesus did when he saw the temple area desecrated and turned into a market place.

Read John 2:23. In the space below, write something else Jesus did while in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Jesus clears the temple of the merchants. He also performs some miracles. We do not know what these miracles were. Most likely, Jesus healed sick persons. He did this most often. His heart of compassion reached out to people who needed help.

While in Jerusalem Jesus has a very important meeting with a man. In this meeting he tells exactly why he came to earth and how one should respond.

MEET NICODEMUS

Read again John 3:1-10. List everything you can discover about Nicodemus from these verses.



50
A

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, was at the very top in society. The Old Testament does not mention even one Pharisee. But when the New Testament period opens, they are everywhere. The New Testament mentions them many times. The sect or party of the Pharisees arose during the inter-biblical period. The word *Pharisee* means *separated* and the word describes them well. Diversity existed among the Pharisees.

In general, they separated or devoted themselves completely to observing the Law of Moses, the first five books in our Old Testament. Not content with just observing the law as God gave it to Moses, the Pharisees wanted it interpreted and applied to every conceivable situation in life. Over several generations, scribes worked out these interpretations and applications. People called these oral teachings the *Mishnah*.

For example, one of the Ten Commandments says, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. (See Ex. 20:8.) Great details were worked out regarding how to keep the Sabbath day holy, including how far a person could travel on the Sabbath, what kind of burdens he could carry, and many other intricate applications. The Pharisees accepted these thousands of rules and regulations and tried to keep every detail. In other words, the Pharisees were very, very religious!

Not only did the Pharisees devote themselves to observing the law, they also separated themselves from others in society. (See Luke 18:11.) Jews in general would not associate with Gentiles, or non-Jews. The Pharisees went further. They did not like to associate with non-Pharisees! One criticism the Pharisees made against Jesus was that he was a friend of tax collectors and ‘sinners.’ (See Luke 7:34; 15:2.)

Nicodemus was also a member of the Jewish ruling council, or Sanhedrin, an aristocratic body of 71 Jews. This council served as the national governing body for the Jews under the watchful eye and authority of the Romans. A person could go no higher in Jewish society than be a member of the prestigious Sanhedrin.

Nicodemus was also a distinguished teacher. (See John 3:10.) He could interpret with authority the Hebrew Scriptures. He knew the Old Testament, as well as all the detailed rules the scribes had worked out. People looked up to Nicodemus and respected his position as a distinguished professor. According to Jewish tradition, Nicodemus was a wealthy man, one of the three richest men in Jerusalem.

Read Luke 6:6-7. Then describe in the space below the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus. _____

Read again John 3:1-2. Then answer this question: What attitude did Nicodemus have toward Jesus? _____

Most of the Pharisees disliked and even hated Jesus, but Nicodemus did not. He wanted to meet Jesus. The distinguished professor wanted to learn from the young teacher from Nazareth.

A NIGHT VISIT

John 3:2 tells us that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. John does not tell us why. No one knows for sure. We can only guess.

In the space below, write your guess as to why Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night. _____

There could be many possible reasons why the interview with Jesus took place at night. Perhaps Nicodemus was very busy during the day and night was the best time for him. Perhaps he knew that crowds of people thronged Jesus during the day and he wanted some personal time with him.

Was he ashamed for others to know of his interest in the young teacher from Galilee? He could have wanted to meet privately to keep other Pharisees from knowing of his interest.

I like to think that Nicodemus could not wait until morning to see Jesus. He decided not to wait but to come immediately.

It should not concern us that Nicodemus came at night. He came. And Jesus did not turn him away. He took time to meet with him. Jesus never turns anyone away. He always has time for us, no matter when we come to him.

The particular way the writer John uses the word *night* suggests a darkness much more than physical. Darkness existed inside Nicodemus as well as around him physically.

In the list below, check the words which express Nicodemus' attitude as he approached Jesus. (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bewilderment | <input type="checkbox"/> respect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> interest | <input type="checkbox"/> sincerity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> hostility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humility | <input type="checkbox"/> sarcasm |



Identify the men in this picture. The one on the left is _____.
 The one on the right is _____.
 What in this picture shows Nicodemus' wealth? _____

John gives us an abbreviated account of Nicodemus' visit with Jesus. They may have spent a long time that night talking. Nicodemus approached Jesus with sincerity and respect. He called him *Rabbi or teacher*. He did not boast of his background or position. He acknowledged that Jesus had come from God. He referred to Jesus' miracles among the people. Nicodemus was probably puzzled or bewildered by the things he had heard about Jesus. He wanted to learn more.

Jesus doesn't spend time talking about general things. He takes charge of the conversation and says some things that take root in the heart of the distinguished Pharisee and change his life forever. In doing so, Jesus explains the very heart of the gospel, the good news why he came. The greatest meeting of Nicodemus' life took place that night.

Read John 3:3. Then write your answer to this question: What did Jesus say in response to Nicodemus' greeting?

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus begins by saying, "*I tell you the truth*" (verse 3). Of course Jesus always told the truth. He uses this expression to indicate the great importance of what he is about to say. Jesus says it again in verse 5 and verse 11. It is as if Jesus is saying, "Nicodemus, I'm going to tell you something about God and you can know that coming from God it is absolutely trustworthy. Listen carefully."

Then Jesus drops a bombshell.

Jesus tells Nicodemus plainly that his only hope of heaven and eternal life is to be born again.

In the following list, check the phrases which refer to the expression “born again.” (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spiritual rebirth | <input type="checkbox"/> eternal life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> birth from above | <input type="checkbox"/> saved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> entering the kingdom of God | <input type="checkbox"/> conversion |

All of the expressions above help us understand what Jesus told Nicodemus, one of the most learned men in all of Israel. He was talking to a good man. And yet he tells Nicodemus that the only way he can ever make it to heaven is through being born again.

Money, education, good deeds, and position count for nothing in regard to salvation. Spiritual rebirth is the work of God in a person’s life.

What Jesus said puzzled Nicodemus. Perhaps he had forgotten the promise of God in Ezekiel 36:25-26: *“I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”*

Jesus tells Nicodemus that a person must be born of water and the Spirit to make it to heaven (John 3: 5). Bible scholars differ on what Jesus meant by the expression “born of water.” It could refer to physical birth. Verses 4 and 6 refer to physical birth. Before birth the water in a mother’s womb cushions the baby. Some scholars think it refers to repentance, as represented by the baptism of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist said, *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire”* (Matt. 3:11). Repentance involves a change of mind. It involves turning from sin and self and turning to God.

Other scholars think “born of water” refers to the cleansing of a person’s life by the Word of God.

Simon Peter wrote, *“You have been born again . . . through the living and enduring word of God”* (1 Peter 1:23). Paul wrote about the people of God being cleansed *“by the washing with water through the word”* (Eph. 5:26).

Many people hold the erroneous view we are saved by being immersed in water. They call this “baptismal regeneration.” Baptism symbolizes beautifully that the individual is a new person in Christ. Baptism takes place following a person’s commitment to Christ. It has nothing to do with saving a person.

Every person is born with a sinful nature. We are separated from God and on our way to an eternity without God. We need to be “born of the Spirit” (verse 8). We need to be born from above, to experience a rebirth. Only God can give this miracle.

Jesus gives Nicodemus, and us, two illustrations to help in understanding the new birth.

Read John 3:7-8 again. Complete the following sentence.

Jesus compares being born of the Spirit with the work in nature of the blowing of the _____.

Perhaps a soft wind gently stirred the olive trees as Jesus and Nicodemus talked. The wind in nature works according to its own laws. It blows where it pleases. We can see its effects but we cannot see the wind itself. It can blow gently or very strongly. The Holy Spirit is like the wind. In fact, the same Greek word for wind is also used for “spirit.” We cannot see the Spirit but we can sense his presence. He speaks to our hearts. He tells us that we need to trust Christ as our Savior and Lord. The wind of the Spirit blew into the heart of Nicodemus that night.

The second illustration Jesus uses comes from the Old Testament. As the people of Israel journeyed to the Promised Land they were not happy. They griped and murmured and complained the entire way. In Numbers 21 God sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit many people. And many of the people died. The people repented of their rebellious spirit and Moses prayed for them. God told him to make a snake of bronze and lift it up on a pole in the camp. When anyone bitten by a snake looked at the bronze serpent, he lived (Num. 21:4-9).

Read again John 3:14-15. Then fill in the blanks in this statement:

Jesus says that just as Moses lifted up the snake, so the Son of Man must be _____. Jesus is referring to His death on the cross. He says that everyone who believes in Him will have _____.

The bronze snake symbolized sin. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he was not a symbol of sin. He actually died in our place. He had never sinned. Yet, “*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us*” (2 Cor. 5:21). Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

Many have called John 3:16 the greatest verse in the Bible. It is probably the best-known verse. It explains the new birth.

With John 3:16 before you, answer the following questions.

Whom does God love? _____

What gift did God give? _____

Who can believe in Jesus? _____

When a person believes in Jesus, from what is he saved? _____

When a person believes in Jesus, what does he receive? _____

God loves more than the physical world. He loves the people of the world. He loves every person. He excludes no one. Because of his great love, he gave the gift of his Son. Jesus came into the world and lived a perfect life. He died on the cross for our sins. Any person can believe in Jesus. He turns no one away. When a person believes in Jesus, he is saved from perishing. Belief in God saves one from eternity without God. When a person believes in Jesus, he receives eternal life.

Read John 3:17. Then fill in the missing words in this verse:

“*For God did not send his Son into the world to _____ the world, but to _____ the world through him.*”

God loves us. He did not send Jesus to condemn the world. He sent him to save the world.

Study John 3:16-21. Then match the persons on the left with the descriptions in the right-hand column. Write the correct number in each blank.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The person who believes in Jesus | ___a. stands condemned |
| 2. The person who does not believe in Jesus | ___b. has eternal life |
| | ___c. will not come to the light |
| | ___d. lives by the truth |
| | ___e. shall not perish |
| | ___f. is not condemned |
| | ___g. comes to the light |
| | ___h. shall perish |
| | ___i. loves darkness instead of light |
| | ___j. hates the light |

I want to know how the night visit of Nicodemus with Jesus ended. What happened? John does not tell us. But John's Gospel mentions Nicodemus two other times. We learn more about him from these two incidents.

Read again John 7:45-52.

The incident described in these verses happened much later in Jesus' ministry than the night visit with Nicodemus. The Pharisees are trying to kill Jesus. They send temple guards to arrest him (John 7:32). The guards came back without him and the Pharisees are angry with them. As a member of the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus is present. He knows what is going on.

Write in your own words what Nicodemus said to the other Pharisees in John 7:51.



Nicodemus told the Sanhedrin that Jewish law did not permit a person to be condemned without first giving the person an opportunity to defend himself. He spoke in defense of Jesus, though not in a very strong way. He appears rather cautious and timid.

Later, in the book of Acts, Peter spoke before the same group and gave a ringing testimony to the saving power of Jesus (Acts 4:1-12). Still later, the deacon Stephen spoke before the same Sanhedrin. He gave a wonderful witness to Christ (Acts 7). Still later, Paul spoke boldly before the Sanhedrin (Acts 23:1-8).

I wish that Nicodemus had spoken up for Jesus with the passion and clarity of Peter or Stephen or Paul. I wish he had told the Sanhedrin about his night visit with Jesus. I wish he had told them about the necessity of the new birth. But I must not judge Nicodemus. He did speak up. Evidently his faith is growing. John gives us one last glimpse of the man who came at night.

NICODEMUS AT THE CROSS

When Jesus died on the cross, the disciples had fled. In fact, the night before, Jesus told them, "*This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'*" (Matt. 26:31). They slept while he prayed in Gethsemane. No one stood with him when he stood before the high priest. He stood alone before the Sanhedrin. No disciple stood with him before Pilate or Herod. No disciple helped him carry the cross to Calvary.

And when Jesus died on the cross the disciples did not come to claim his body. They were afraid. Yet as the shadows of evening began to gather over the city, Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, went to Pilate and asked if he could bury Jesus' body. A prominent man from the town of Arimathea, Joseph followed Jesus secretly. John tells us that Nicodemus went with Joseph to prepare his body for burial. I find it ironic that two members of the Sanhedrin, the council that condemned Jesus to die, buried his body because of the love in their hearts for him.



Read again John 19:38-42. Then fill in the missing number in this sentence:

Nicodemus brought a large amount of spices, about ____ pounds, to use in anointing the body of Jesus for burial.

Seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes would be very expensive, so the tradition that Nicodemus was a rich man was likely true. What Nicodemus brought expressed love from a wealthy man. He brought enough spices for the burial of a king. And a King he was!

Write two things which express your feelings and attitude just now regarding Nicodemus.

I feel appreciation and thankfulness. I would like to thank Nicodemus, and Joseph also, for burying the body of our Savior. Someday, in heaven, we will have the opportunity to thank them personally for what they did.

I also am glad that Nicodemus finally speaks openly about his faith in Christ. I am glad that God did not give up on him. I would like to run through the streets of old Jerusalem shouting at the top of my voice, “Nicodemus is a follower of Jesus! Nicodemus believes! Nicodemus believes!”

APPLICATION

Study for a few minutes the four drawings in this study guide. Write beside each drawing a sentence or caption that tells what is taking place.

Read John 3:16 aloud slowly. Note the words in dark type.

“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.”

Think of several words you can substitute for each word in dark type. Write them beside the words below.

loved _____
 world _____
 whoever _____
 believes _____
 eternal life _____

Look over the words you have written. Circle one word on each line that you really like. Now read John 3:16 aloud again, but this time use the words you have circled rather than the words in dark type. Write the verse, using the words you have chosen. (For example, “God so cared for everyone . . .”)

I wrote this:

“For God so **treasured all people** that he gave his one and only Son, **that any person who trusts** in him shall not perish but have **a home in heaven.**”

Let’s make John 3:16 very personal. Write your full name in the following blanks.

“For God so loved _____ that he gave his one and only Son, that _____ who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

That is a wonderful true statement! God loves you very much and gave his Son to die for you on the cross. By believing in him you can have eternal life.

Spend a few minutes thanking God for what he did for you. Pray this prayer:

“Dear God, thank you so very much for loving me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to come to earth and die for my sins on the cross. Thank you for making it possible for me to have eternal life. I claim your promise in John 3:16 and make it my very own. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Now make John 3:16 very personal again. This time write in the two blanks in the sentence the name of a loved one or friend or neighbor who has never trusted in Jesus.

“For God so loved _____ that he gave his one and only Son, that _____ who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Does the person whose name you wrote know this verse? Does he/she know that God loves him/her? Has he/she heard that Jesus came to earth and died on the cross for his/her sins? Plan to tell this person the story of Nicodemus. Explain John 3:16 very carefully so the person will understand.

Write the time when you plan to go and tell the person. _____

Commit John 3:16 to memory. You probably already know it by heart.

Summarize in a sentence or two the main thing God has taught you in your study.

You can lead your family or a group of neighbors or perhaps a church group in this study on Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night. Doing so will strengthen your own life and God will use you to bless others. The following suggestions will help you lead a small group study.

GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY

Each member of the group has contributions to make. Each person should take active part in the discussion. No one should dominate the time together.

Begin the study with prayer.

Read aloud the story of Nicodemus in John 3:1-12, 7:45-52, and 19:38-42.

Using the four drawings as visual aids, tell the story of Nicodemus in your own words. Take your time and show the drawings to the group as you tell the story.

Ask the following questions and give group members time to respond and share their thoughts. Encourage everyone to share.

- What kind of man do you think Nicodemus was?
- Why do you think Nicodemus wanted to see Jesus?
- Why do you think he came to Jesus at night?
- With what attitude did Nicodemus approach Jesus?
- What did Nicodemus have a problem understanding?
- With what in the physical world of nature did Jesus compare the Spirit of God?
- What are some ways the wind is like the Spirit of God?
- Do you think Nicodemus placed his faith and trust in Jesus that night? Give some evidences to support your decision.
- Why do you think Nicodemus helped with the burial of Jesus?
- Why do you think Nicodemus waited so long before openly letting people know of his faith in Jesus?

The following “Agree or Disagree” statements will help involve group members in discussion.

Read each statement aloud.

Ask persons who agree with the statement to raise their hand. Then ask persons who disagree with the statement to raise their hand. Then ask, Why do you agree? disagree?

1. It is easier for an educated person to be saved than it is for a person who cannot read.
2. Church membership saves a person.
3. A person cannot go to heaven unless he keeps the Old Testament law.
4. God loves even “bad” persons.
5. Good works save a person.
6. Jesus alone can forgive our sins and save us.
7. The expression “born again” refers to the work of the Holy Spirit when a

Lead the group members to respond to the activities on John 3:16 under the section “Application.”

Lead the group in memorizing John 3:16. Ask volunteers to explain the verse in their own words.

Read to the group the following section “Responding to God.” Pray the prayer for yourself and help each person pray it for himself or herself.

RESPONDING TO GOD

Now that you have studied God’s Word, he wants you to respond.

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:10).

But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin. *“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). “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).*

You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him. *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19). “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13).*

Pray this prayer to God:

“Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

Welcome into God's family!

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.

Notes: