

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series “Jesus & The Religious Person” – John 3:1-16

FELLOWSHIP

Socially the topic of religion usually carries its own set of cultural mores and stigma. People are usually much more comfortable chatting about their favorite sports teams or music, than spirituality. The topic is cast as an area that is so private, it is in the same category as personal finance, politics, or health. Although these days, many seem to be much more comfortable talking about their 401 K than individual faith. Nothing can turn a casual, social gathering into an awkward moment faster than switching the conversation from favorite cooking recipes to, “So, what do you think about Jesus and eternal life?” Most would rather stay in the comfort of the moment, than deal with the vulnerability of life’s future. Think about the irony of how hard it is for some to discuss estate planning. While everyone knows deep down it’s important and inevitable, our culture shuns and turns away from topics related to death. Maybe this is part of the reason many Christians start perspiring when they think about having to share their faith. How does one interject the topics of sin, salvation, and Jesus into conversations with co-workers, family, friends, or even strangers? While this might seem so daunting of a task it would be easier to leave it to the “professionals,” this new series on Sundays will teach and remind us of not just the importance, but the naturalness of relating our faith to our everyday relationships.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

This chapter in the John contains probably the most famous verse in the New Testament. How many people watching a football game on TV have seen a poster board held up by fans with John 3:16 written on it? It’s doubtful that out of the millions who see this during the next Super Bowl broadcast will be thinking about Nicodemus and his nighttime visit to Jesus. Read out loud together John 3:1-16, and discuss how this private conversation under the cloak of darkness changed the way humanity understood God.

John 3:16 ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***

- Nicodemus was the most politically and religiously credentialed person to ever sit down and talk with Jesus. Why do think he came at night? What was Jesus’ first statement to him? Read out loud together John 7:43-52 and John 19:38-42 to learn more about Nicodemus. Why might one say that Nicodemus became a believer? How did his actions at the crucifixion compare with the other disciples? If applicable, what was your conversion from another religion to Jesus like?
- Jesus tells his night time visitor that to be connected to God is like being born-again. Why did he pick this picture to describe belief? How is spiritual birth and physical birth similar, how are they different? What is God’s role in both? What was your born-again experience like?
- Herpetologists say they can’t understand why people are commonly revulsed by snakes. They always seem to get a bad rap. What is your best or worst snake story? Maybe this association goes back to Genesis 3 and their identification with Satan. That was not a good start for their species. In verses 14-15, Jesus likens belief to him with the story in Numbers 21:4-9. Read that together as a group. In Exodus 20:4, God forbids the making of graven images. Why does he command Moses to make one, and for the people to look to it for salvation? Why did he pick a snake? Why would Jesus identify with a serpent? How does Paul’s statement in Galatians 3:13 and Hebrews 12:2 help to understand John 3?

PRAY

Beachside Summer Fest is just over a week away. Please join with us in prayer for a great turn out and for believers to engage with those on Main St and the Pier who need the Lord.



Community Group Discussion Guide
Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen’s message on May 28, 2017.
Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/jesus-and-the-religious-person/>