

**3:16** —  
**ON 3/16**

*For God So Loved The World...*



**IBSA Sermon Starters**

## ONLY BELIEVE!

by Bruce Kirk, Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, Bolingbrook IL

### BIG IDEA

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### Introduction: Romans 5:12

Reason

- God's Restriction - Genesis 2:15
- Man's Rebellion - Genesis 3:6
- Man's Removal - Genesis 3:22-24

### For God so loved the world,

ii. God's Response – John 3:16, Romans 5:8

iii. A Reasonless love extended!

All sinned - Romans 3:23

- None good – Romans 3:12
- None Righteousness - Romans 3:9-10
- He gave his only Son,

iv. A Redeeming Son given!

- God's Provision
- A Seed promised - Genesis 3:15
- A Son prophesied - Isaiah 9:6
- A Savior proclaimed - 1John 4:14
- A Son Provided – John 3:17

### Whoever,

v. A universal Request extended!

- If anyone hears - 1 John 1:9
- Come to me all – Matthew 11:28
- All nations – Matthew 28:19-20

### Believes in him,

vi. An essential Requirement needed!

- Man's Response - Believe
- You must believe in Jesus - Mark 16:16
- You must confess Jesus - Romans 10:9-10
- You must receive Jesus - John 1:12
- This Invitation to believe is personal
- We are Invited by the Savior - Matthew 11:28 -
- We are Influenced by the Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:15
- We are Indwelled By the Spirit – Romans 8:9-11

### Conclusion:

#### Should not perish but have eternal life.

vii. Eternal Reward granted!

- God's will revealed - 1 Timothy 2:4
- All who repent – 2 Peter 3:9
- All who call – Romans 10:13

All who believe – John 3:36

All who receive – John 1:12

All who hear and believe – John 5:24

All who confess their sin – 1 John 1:9

All who are born again - John 3:3

All who keep his word – 1 John 2:5

## SO LOVED

by Doug Munton, First Baptist Church of O'Fallon

Years ago, there was a man who used to attend major sporting events wearing a giant rainbow wig. He sat in prominent spots where he could be seen on television and he carried a large sign that simply read “John 3:16”. It seemed like an odd and ineffective evangelism strategy to me, but I appreciated his passion. A few years ago, I was talking to a man in our church (First Baptist Church, O'Fallon, IL) about his faith background and how he came to know Christ as Savior. His answer surprised me. He said that he saw the “rainbow hair guy” while watching a sporting event. He had no idea what “John 3:16” meant, but he was curious. He learned that it was a verse in the Bible and he looked it up in a copy of God’s word that sat unused on a shelf. What he read was revolutionary! It led him on a search to discover the God who “so loved the world” which resulted ultimately in him trusting Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

John 3:16 is a powerful verse. It summarizes the message of the gospel and shows us the depths of God’s love. The truth of this verse can change your life and your eternity. Let’s note three things this verse teaches us about God and his love.

### 1 God cares about this broken world.

John 3:16 says “God loved the world in this way” (CSB), or another translation says “For God so loved the world” (KJV). Isn’t that an amazing thing? This world is broken by sin. The entrance of sin into our world damaged everything. We are all sinners and all broken. Everyone around us is broken. Sin has affected everything and everyone. Sin results in judgement, condemnation and death. If we got what we deserve, absent God’s grace, we would spend eternity in hell—we would “perish”.

But for reasons I can’t fully understand, God loved this broken world and the broken sinners in it. We couldn’t hope to reach God. Heaven is holy and perfect and we are sinners. What hope is there for sinful people like us to reach a holy place like heaven by our own merit? No matter what we might do, we could never escape the fact that that we have already sinned and that we fall short of God’s glory.

We are all broken but the incredible truth of God’s word is that God loves broken people. God cares about us and loves us even though we don’t deserve it. I’m amazed, but thankful, that “God so loved the world”.

### 2 God gives the greatest gift.

John 3:16 tells us how God shows his love to us- “He gave his one and only Son” (CSB), or the KJV says “he gave his only begotten Son”. This is remarkable. God knew our sinfulness, our shame, and our rebellion against him and yet loved us enough to give his greatest gift. God sent his Son Jesus into this broken world for us. This is the greatest gift that God could give- his “one and only Son” or “only begotten Son”.

Jesus came into this broken world for us and did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Jesus did three things for us. 1) Jesus came to live the perfect life that we couldn’t live. We have all sinned and we come up short to the standard of perfection. Jesus lived the perfect, sinless life. 2) Jesus came to die the death we deserve. The Bible tells us that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 3:23). Jesus died in our place on the cross. We deserved the punishment that comes with sin. We owed the crushing debt of sin. But Jesus took our sins upon himself on the cross. The sinless one became sin for us. He paid our debt on the cross. 3) Jesus provided the miracle we need. Jesus not only died for us, he rose from the dead. He conquered the power of death and hell in the resurrection. He didn’t stay a prisoner to the grave, he defeated it. His resurrection teaches us of his power and our hope.

**SO LOVED (p.2)**

by Doug Munton, First Baptist Church of O'Fallon

**3 God offers you eternal life.**

John 3:16 tells us the purpose behind God loving the world and sending his Son. The purpose is “so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”. The words “so that” point us to the purpose. It isn't enough to know about God's love and about Jesus coming into the world. There is a purpose for us that is more than just knowing the facts. God loved the broken world and sent Jesus the Savior “so that” we would “believe in him”. The word “belief” is more than just knowing about what God did for us. It is about trusting Jesus and placing our faith in him. God wants us to repent of our sins and to place our faith in Jesus who lived for us, died for us and rose from the dead for us.

If you will trust Jesus as your Savior, God will forgive you of your sins and give you eternal life. Instead of “perishing”, you will experience God's grace- his undeserved, but freely given love. You can be saved from sin's penalty by trusting Jesus as your Savior. You can have eternal life instead of perishing. You can have forgiveness instead of the guilt of sin. You can experience God's love here and now. You can have a life worth living and eternal life with the God who loves you in heaven one day.

Here is a simple way to explain the steps we take to trust Jesus as our Savior. We can think of it as ABC.

A stands for admit. We admit that we have sinned against God and we turn from our sin- we repent. We don't excuse our sin or blame others for our sin, we admit our sins and repent of them.

B stands believe. We believe in Jesus; we place our trust and our faith in Jesus. We believe that he lived for us, that he died on the cross for our sins and that he rose from the dead. We place our trust in Jesus, not ourselves, our religious acts or our good works.

C stands for confess and commit. To be saved, we confess Jesus as our Savior and our Lord and commit our lives to him. We ask him to save us as we surrender our lives to him.

Today, won't you place your faith in God who loves you so much? Won't you trust Jesus who lived, died and rose for you? Give your life to him today and receive him as you Savior and Lord!

## THE STORY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

by Ronnie Tabor Crossroads Church Centralia, Illinois

### BIG IDEA

Considered one of the most widely quoted verses in the Bible and is often referred to as the "Story that changed the world." John 3:16 encapsulates the essence of Christianity and the message of God's love for humanity. It serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrificial love demonstrated by Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross offers salvation to all who believe in Him.

Four crucial things in John 3:16

- The Reality of God's love
- The Target of God's love
- The Sacrifice of God's love
- The Beneficiaries of God's love

### CONCLUSION

Just knowing these four things about John 3:16 is not enough. We must believe and obey what it says.

### INVITATION PROMPT

The impact of John 3:16 is profound, as it has inspired countless individuals to embrace faith, hope, and love in their lives. What has it done in your life?