

3:16 —
ON 3/16

For God So Loved The World...



NAMB Sermon Starters

Use the following suggested sermon prompts to preach John 3:16 on 3/16 for an evangelistic emphasis at your church.

“The Best News!”

by Preston L. Nix, Ph.D | New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Big Idea

This verse is popularly called “The gospel in a nutshell.” The gospel means “good news.” The gospel is not only “good news”; it’s the best news you will ever hear!

The best news you will ever hear is this: by placing your faith in Jesus, all of your sins can be forgiven, you can be made right with God, and you can receive the gift of eternal life.

- God’s Love and Sacrifice: “For God so loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son ...”
- Your Response: “... so that everyone who believes in Him ...”
- God’s Promise: “... will not perish but have eternal life.”

Conclusion

John 3:16 may be the most well-known verse in the New Testament, but it is not enough to simply to know what it says.

Invitation Prompt

We must act upon the truth of John 3:16, repent of our sin, believe in the gospel, and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

“God’s Redeeming Love”

by Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. | Samford University

Big Idea

Our loving Father was willing to stop at no cost to redeem His beloved children. Despite the gravity of our sin, He sent His Son to lay down His life for us, His sheep, that we may experience the redemption only He can provide. There is only one way to enter His promise of everlasting life: through faith in the Son. Anyone who places faith in Jesus may find true pasture, eternal rest, and loving redemption in Him alone.

- The Width of Divine Love
- The Cost of Divine Love
- The Inclusivity of Divine Love

Conclusion

God’s love is pervasive—so high we can’t get over it, so low we can’t get under it, so wide we can’t go around it, and so inclusive we can’t control it.

Invitation Prompt

We must come in through the door: Jesus (John 10:9,15-16).

“The World’s True God”

by Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. | Samford University

Big Idea

Our God, the Author of truth, created the world and established Himself as the one, true God over creation. Though we have sinned and deserve death on account of our trespasses against Him, He created a way for us to experience salvation and to be reunited with Him for eternity. Through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, the work is finished, and we may be brought back into relationship with the Father.

- The Divine Creator: Creation
- The Divine Deliverer: Salvation
- The Divine Convener: Consummation

Conclusion

Only one God is unbound by creation, devoted to our salvation, and awaiting the consummation of believers unto Himself. We can see God’s love for us because He gave of Himself in each move—creation, salvation, and consummation—that we might have eternal life.

Invitation Prompt

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“God’s Extravagant Love”

by Pastor Shawn Beaty | The Hills Church of Clovis, CA

Big Idea

Every extravagant gift demands a response. Never has a greater gift been given or received than the gift of salvation from God through Jesus toward us, His beloved creation. Because our loving Father lavishes such extravagant love toward us, we must respond to His generosity with the awe it deserves. Will we be apathetic toward His extravagant gift of salvation, or will we respond with the worship He is due?

- God loved.
- God gave.
- We respond.

Conclusion

Respond to God’s love by withholding nothing from the One who gave us His all.

Invitation Prompt

What is your response to God’s great gift?

“For God So Loved the World”

by R. Scott Pace | Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Big Idea

More songs have been sung, more poems have been written, more pictures have been painted, and more movies have been made on the single subject of “love” than perhaps any other topic. Our world has always been infatuated with the concept of love, but love is misunderstood by the world. If you had to sum up the entire message of the Bible in one word, it would be love. We can view His Word as God’s “love letter” to us. If you had to sum up the entire message of the Bible in one verse, it would be John 3:16.

God’s eternal love for you offers you hope for this earthly life and the promise of eternal life.

- **The Reality of God’s Love:** “For God so loved the world in this way ...”
 - God’s love is perfect.
 - God’s love is personal.
- **The Result of God’s Love:** “He gave his one and only Son ...”
 - God gave us His Son.
 - God gave us a Savior.
- **The Response to God’s Love:** “... so that everyone who believes in Him ...”
 - We must receive Christ by faith.
 - We will reside with Christ forever.

Conclusion

God’s love for us transcends our earthly struggles and calls us into an everlasting covenant with Him forever. Receive His love that is like no other.

Invitation Prompt

- Trust Christ and receive God’s gift of eternal life.
- Celebrate God’s love, as well as His gift of salvation, and live with hope.
- Identify someone you can share God’s love with today.

“Nicodemus: An Intelligent Man Comes to Christ”

by Pastor Ted Traylor | Olive Baptist Church of Pensacola, FL

Big Idea

Scripture’s account of Nicodemus shows us what it looks like to be changed by the love of Jesus Christ. The call of the gospel is to simply believe, receive, and become. Jesus met Nicodemus where he was and called him into deeper relationship with Himself. Jesus invites us to go beyond head knowledge and tradition so that we may come to Him and be truly transformed.

- A Nocturnal Conversation—John 3
- A Closed-Door Meeting—John 7:50-52
- A Public Act of Faith—John 19:38-42

Conclusion

Nicodemus was:

- Converted by Christ
- Contending for Christ
- Confessing the Christ

Invitation Prompt

How will you respond to Christ’s offer to transform your life?

“The Truth of Salvation”

by D.J. Horton | Church at the Mill of Moore, South Carolina

Big Idea

Four is a big deal: four-part harmony, four legs to a table, four wheels on a car, four years for high school (and four more for college), four quarters in a football game, and four courses in fine dining. With four in mind, John 3:16 tells us four truths about salvation.

1. The Motive of Salvation: Why did He do it? John’s answer: “For God so loved the world ...”

The overarching truth of salvation is that it comes from God’s love. God did not have to save us. He could have fulfilled His justice and maintained His holiness by allowing all of humanity to die in their sin. Thankfully, God is love. His love for us moved Him to offer salvation and pursue a relationship with us.

2. The Means of Salvation: How did He do it? John’s answer: “He gave ...”

God gave His Son fully, even to the point of death. God kept His law and loved His creation at the same time by offering what He Himself required for the forgiveness of sin, a blood sacrifice. There is no greater love.

3. The Man of Salvation: Who did He (God) give? John’s answer: “... his one and only Son ...”

Jesus is unique in that He is both God and man. Being fully God and fully man allows Him to be the perfect lamb without blemish to be sacrificed for our sins. God did not spare His Son that we might have eternal life.

4. The Message of Salvation: For whom did He do it? John’s answer: “... so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

God has offered salvation to anyone who believes. Anyone! Let me say that again: anyone!

Conclusion

God promises that His salvation is for anyone who believes. We are saved from perishing in sin, living in hell forever. We are saved to eternal life with God in a new heaven and new earth.

Invitation Prompt

1. Have you believed the gospel fully?
2. Have you made your belief public?
3. Does your life currently look as though Jesus is your Lord and Savior?
4. If the gospel is for anyone, are you willing to tell everyone?

“The Greatest Gift”

by Carl J. Bradford | Texas Baptist College

Big Idea

The greatest gift of all time—one that can never be surpassed—is God’s gift of Jesus to the world. The giver, the gift, and the goal are summarized succinctly in John 3:16.

- The Giver of Love—v. 16a “For God so loved the world ...”
- The Gift of Love—v. 16b “... that He gave His only Son ...”
- The Goal of Love - v. 16c “... that whoever believes in Him ...”

Conclusion

John 3:16 is more than just a declaration of words. It’s the foundation of the Christian faith. It speaks of a love so great that it led to the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, sent to die for us. This love is not just a historical fact but a present reality that calls for our response.

Invitation Prompt

The message of the text is clear: God loved. God gave. Will you believe? He’s calling you to come. The price has already been paid, the way has already been made, and the invitation has already been extended. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, offers forgiveness, peace, and eternal life to anyone who will believe in Him.

If you have never made that decision to trust in Jesus, come. Don’t wait another moment. Today is the day of salvation. The same Jesus who died for the world is reaching out personally to you right now. Come and receive the gift of eternal life that only His love provides!

Goals

- How many people do we hope will attend our 3:16 on 3/16 services?
- How many people do we hope our church members will invite?
- What stories can we share to encourage people to get involved?
- How will we communicate this goal?
 - On Sunday mornings?
 - Through social media?
 - In other communication channels (emails, bulletins, etc.)?

Service Preparation

- How many services should we have on 3/16?
 - Time(s)?
- What is the order of service?
 - Music?
 - John 3:16 sermon emphasis?
 - Creative ideas?
- What ministry opportunities or next steps will we announce?
- Will we provide childcare and/or activity packets for children?
- How many volunteers will we need?
 - Worship ministry?
 - Childcare?
 - Guest services?
 - Safety and security?
- How will we connect with guests?
 - What gift will we provide?
 - How and when will we follow up?

Communications

- Update the church website with 3:16 on 3/16 service information
- Create graphics for bulletins and projection slides
- Promote outreach events and John 3:16 services on social media channels and church communications (emails, bulletins, etc.)
- Advertise in our community (radio, website, TV, shopping centers, etc.)

Other Considerations

- Will we host any outreach events leading up to 3/16?
- How will we emphasize John 3:16 through our Sunday School classes or small groups?
- What follow-up steps will we provide to guests who attend services and/or respond to the gospel message on 3/16?

NAMB EVANGELISM KIT

*Create a culture of evangelism in your church – **not just a campaign.***



LEAD YOUR CHURCH TO ...

- Establish goals for gospel conversations
- Measure the level of evangelistic engagement
- Develop a passion for personal evangelism
- Plan for prayer and spiritual disciplines
- Provide ways to celebrate sharing the gospel

Available in English and Spanish as well as an online course.



Text **Evangelism** to **888-123** or scan the QR code

Msg frequency varies. Reply STOP to cancel, HELP for help. Msg & data rates may apply. Terms & privacy: slktxt.io/YvLo