

# Getting Started With Your New Bible



# Introduction

Congratulations on your new Bible!

This is very exciting because the Bible is written by God (using men) to describe His plans and purposes for a relationship with the people He created. As you read it, you will find it is a kind of love letter written to you by the God who made you. It is filled with promises and messages about God's love for you personally, and His plan for how to live well.

This booklet contains three major sections. The first section is a collection of tips to help you study the Bible. The second section is a Bible study covering a single verse (John 3:16) that will guide you as you begin reading the Bible. The final section contains an invitation to continue your study by downloading a free Bible study on the entire book of John, plus additional resources to help you with your study. You can use these resources as you work through the Bible study on John 3:16 and later in your own studies.

CARE  N  THE SQUARE



# Section 1

## Tips to Help Study the Bible

### Prepare

- Familiarize yourself with your new Bible.
  1. There is usually a table of contents at the beginning of the Bible to help locate where a specific book begins.
  2. Verses are referenced using  
BOOK [CHAPTER]:[VERSE].

For example, “John 3:16” is the 16th verse in the 3rd chapter of the book of John.

- Gather optional materials such as pens, highlighters, a notebook, and your Bible study questions.
- Establish a regular pattern, if possible. Try to have a consistent place and time to study. Many have found it helpful to meet God in the morning.

### Pray

- Ask God for help in understanding and applying the verse to your life.

### Read

- When you begin reading the Bible it is helpful to follow a prepared Bible study guide like the one on page 4 of this booklet.
- Find and read the selected verse(s) slowly.

- Read the passage in context (the surrounding chapter/verses). A commentary can be a great resource; several free online commentaries are listed at the end of this booklet.

## Reflect

- The Bible is God's word; it will never contradict itself. So if you are not sure what a verse means, you can consult other Bible verses for clarification.
- Ask yourself "Reflection Questions" such as:
  1. What do I learn about God?
  2. What do I learn about people?
  3. What do I learn about myself?
- Feel free to highlight or mark up your Bible. If you are using a Bible study guide, write your answers down and take notes in your study guide.

## Apply

- Ask yourself "Application Questions" such as:
  1. What does God want me to do based on what I have learned?
  2. How do I apply what I have read to my life today?
- Pray that God will help you apply what you learned to your life.

# Section 2

## Sample Bible Study on John 3:16

### Introduction

Let's try some of these suggestions using one of the most popular verses in the Bible, John 3:16. John is the 4th book in the New Testament. Find and read this verse in your Bible.

“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.”

We will study this one verse by breaking it down into parts and using other Bible verses to explore each part in more depth. We will break John 3:16 down into the following parts:

1. For God
2. so loved
3. the world
4. that He gave
5. His one and only Son,
6. that whoever believes in Him
7. shall not perish but have eternal life.

We would recommend that you take your time and pause in between parts to reflect on what you learned from each section.



## Part 1 — “For God”

*“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.”*

Who is this God? Let's see what the Bible says about Him. Look up each one of the following verses and write down the answers to the questions in the blanks.

1. Read the following verses and write down the word used to describe God.

a) Psalm 11:7 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Psalm 25:8 \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

c) Psalm 103:8 \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

& \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

d) Deuteronomy 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Isaiah 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_

f) Jerimiah 32:17 \_\_\_\_\_

g) 2 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you know anyone who possesses any of these attributes? If so, write down their name.

a. Does that person display ALL of the attributes you listed ALL of the time?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Read Malachi 3:6. What does this verse say that God does NOT do?

a. Look at the words you wrote down in questions 1-2.

God always stays the same. Those words you wrote down describe who He is ALWAYS. As you continue to study your bible you will see it is a kind of love letter to you from this God. He desires to have a relationship with you.

4. What can you do to develop a deeper relationship with this God?

## Summary of Part 1: “For God”

As you read the bible, you will see that God is infinitely more righteous, good, powerful, compassionate, gracious, merciful, Holy, and patient than anyone you could have listed in question 2. He is the God who created the universe (Genesis 1:1), parted the seas (Exodus 14:10-22), and fed His people as they wandered in the desert (Exodus 16:1-17). Yet, He is also personal. He knows you better than you know yourself (Psalm 139:1-4), He cares about you (Matthew 11:28-29), He is intimately involved in your life (Romans 8:28), He promises to never leave you (Deuteronomy 31:8), and as we will see in the next section, He loves you more than anyone else ever has, could or will.

## Notes

## Part 2 – “so loved”

*“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.”*

In the first part, we looked at some of the characteristics of God including His holiness, righteousness, and power. In this part, we read that He is a loving God and will examine the depth of His love.

1. We all have different thoughts about the word love. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 for a biblical description of Love. What words stand out to you?
2. In the past, have you thought of God as loving?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No
  - a. If not, what word would you have used to describe Him?
3. Look up John 15:13. What does this verse say is the greatest expression possible of love?
4. Look up Romans 5:8. What does this verse say that Jesus Christ did for you?
5. Can you think of anyone you know that loves you this much? If so write down their name.
6. Read Ephesians 3:17-18. What does Paul pray that the Ephesians would grasp?
7. What makes it difficult at times for you to believe that God loves you this way?



## **Summary of Part 2: “so loved”**

Who would you say is the most powerful person in the world? If you knew this person loved you enough to die for you, would it change your attitude as you walk through this life? Would you feel more hopeful, more joyful, and less anxious? God is infinitely more powerful than this person, and He loves YOU so much that He died for you. Spend some time thinking about this. The depth of God’s love is hard to fully understand because it is not like any other love we have experienced.

## **Notes**

## Part 3 — “the world”

*“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.”*

In this part we will look at who God loves. The “world” in John 3:16 does not refer to the planet but to mankind.

1. Read Romans 3:23 and check the word used to describe this group:  
☐ All    ☐ Some    ☐ None
2. This group in Romans 3:23 is the same group referred to as “the world” in John 3:16. Who is excluded from this group?
3. Does this group include you? ☐ Yes    ☐ No
4. Would you have described yourself the way that Romans 3:23 does? ☐ Yes    ☐ No
5. Sometimes we judge ourselves by our standards or the world’s standards. However, we need to look at ourselves using God’s standards. Read James 2:10. According to this verse if we sin \_\_\_\_\_ time we are \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Read Isaiah 59:2. It says our iniquities (sins) have \_\_\_\_\_ us from God.
7. Read Romans 6:23. What does this verse say is the penalty for sinning?



## **Summary of Part 3: “the world”**

God is perfectly Holy (Isaiah 6:3) and since He does not grade on a curve His standard is absolute perfection (Matthew 5:48). Every single person in the world falls short of this standard and is a sinner. This includes you and me (Romans 3:23). We all deserve to die because the penalty for this sin is death (Romans 6:23), yet we are the ones who God loves.

## **Notes**

## Part 4 — “that He gave”

*“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.”*

So far we learned that this all powerful God loves us. He desires a relationship with us; however, we have all fallen short of His perfect standard, have been separated from God, and deserve the punishment of death. While there is nothing we can do to fix this problem, we now see that God fixes it by giving us a free gift.

1. What is the greatest gift you have ever received?
2. Read the second part of Romans 6:23. What is the free gift of God?
3. Read Romans 5:8. What did Christ do for us while we were still sinners?

He did this to demonstrate His \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. According to these verses can we earn this gift from God? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. You can't earn it, which means you can't lose it, but you can resist it or reject it.
  - a. Why would someone resist or reject this free gift from God?
  - b. In what ways might you be resisting or rejecting this love?



## **Summary of Part 4 “that He gave”**

God loves us so much that He gives us an enormous gift. We don't deserve it, can't earn it, and we can't pay Him back for it. He did this even though we were sinners.

### **Notes**

## Part 5 — “His one and only Son”

*“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.”*

In this part, we will look at this gift that God gives us, His one and only Son. We will look at who this is, what this person claimed about Himself, and the signs that He performed to prove His claims. We will also look at how we can be certain about all of this.

1. According to Matthew 3:16-17 who is God’s Son?
2. Read John 1:1. The Word refers to Jesus. According to the last part of this verse, who is Jesus?
3. John 1:14 tell us that the Word (Jesus) became \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among us.
4. According to Hebrews 4:15, while on earth Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_, but He did not \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Read John 10:30. What did Jesus say about Himself and God the Father? \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Read John 10:33. According to this verse, who did Jesus claim to be? \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Jesus performed many signs to prove this claim. Fill in the blanks below for a few of the signs He performed.
  - a) John 2:1-11 Changed \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) John 4:46-54 \_\_\_\_\_ the officials son
  - c) John 6:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_ five thousand people
  - d) John 6:16-21 \_\_\_\_\_ on water
  - e) John 9:1-7 Heals the \_\_\_\_\_ man.
  - f) John 11:38-44 \_\_\_\_\_ Lazarus from the \_\_\_\_\_
8. John 19:18 tells us that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ between two others.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 6:14. According to this verse, God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
10. According to Mark 16:19, Jesus was taken up into \_\_\_\_\_.



## **Summary of Part 5**

### **“His one and only Son”**

God gave us a gift of His one and only Son (Jesus). Jesus claimed to be God and performed many miracles or signs to prove it. Jesus became flesh, He lived a sinless life, and died on a cross to pay for our sins. Then He rose from the dead proving that He is God, and He ascended back into heaven.

## **Notes**

## Part 6 — “that whoever believes in Him”

*“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.”*

God gives us the amazing gift by taking the punishment for our sin on Himself through His one and only Son. There is nothing we can do to earn this gift, but like any gift it must be received. In this part, we will look at how we receive this free gift that God is offering us.

1. John 3:16 clarifies that this gift is for “whoever believes in Him.” Are there any other restrictions listed for receiving this gift like age, race, sex, or nationality?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No
2. So what do we need to believe? Obviously we need to believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be (God - See Part 5), but is this it? Paul answers this in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. From these verses, answer the following questions:
  - a) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ (15:3)
  - b) that He was \_\_\_\_\_ (15:4a)
  - c) that He was \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day (15:4b)
3. Believing is more than just hope or speculation. The New Testament Greek word *pisteuo* (believe) means to be “convinced of something.” We can be convinced of these things because there were eye witnesses. Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 and list as many eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection as you can from this verse:
4. However, the word *pisteuo* has a further meaning. In addition to being convinced, it also means to **trust**. What are some things that people trust in?
5. We must trust in Christ’s death and resurrection alone to save us, not a good life, church attendance, keeping of any rules. What would be preventing you from believing / trusting in Jesus for your salvation today?



## **Summary of Part 6**

### **“that whoever believes in Him”**

To accept this free gift we need to believe and be convinced that Jesus is God, that He died for our sins, and that He was raised from the dead thus proving He is God.

But believing is more than just acknowledging those facts and being convinced of them, truly believing also means trusting in them. So we need to trust in Him alone to save us from the penalty for our sins.

If we truly believe that Jesus died for our sins, it should create a desire to want to know Him more. It should create a desire to follow Him and obey Him more, not to try to earn our salvation because we can't, but out of gratitude to Him. Does this describe you?

## **Notes**

## Part 7—

### **“shall not perish but have eternal life”**

*“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.**”*

If we receive the free gift of our loving God by believing in His son, John 3:16 promises eternal life. What does eternal life mean? When does it start? Let's look at these questions in this part.

1. Read John 6:47. Does this verse say that the one who believes HAS or WILL HAVE eternal life?  
☐ HAS   ☐ WILL HAVE
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Does this verse say “he IS a new creation” or “he WILL BE a new creation”?  
☐ IS   ☐ WILL BE
3. Based on these verses, does eternal life start now or sometime in the future? ☐ NOW   ☐ IN THE FUTURE
4. Read John 16:33. Does the Bible promise us a trouble free life right now? ☐ Yes   ☐ No
5. If eternal life starts now, but we are not promised a trouble-free life, what do we get now? Read Romans 15:13. What three things does this verse say we are given in this life?
  - a. Which of these do you need most right now?
6. Eternal life continues after physical death. We are promised to be with God forever in heaven. Read Revelation 7:16-17 and Revelation 21:4. Out of those verses what do you long for the most?

## **Summary of Part 7**

### **“shall not perish but have eternal life”**

For those who believe in Him, Jesus promises eternal life that begins immediately by providing hope, peace, and joy to endure the trials of this life. This eternal life then lasts forever living with Him in heaven, a place of “no mores”. No more tears, no more death, no more mourning, no more pain, no more hunger, no more thirst, and no more sin.

## **Notes**



## Entire Verse

It can be helpful to actually insert your name into a bible passage. You could try it with John 3:16. Write your first name in the blanks. Then reread it out loud.

***“For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_ that He gave  
His one and only Son, that if \_\_\_\_\_  
believes in Him \_\_\_\_\_ shall not perish  
but \_\_\_\_\_ will have eternal life.”***

When you personalize the verse this way, what thoughts or feelings are stirred within you?

Now ask yourself the Application Questions provided on page 3.

## Application Questions

What does God want me to do based on what I have learned?

How do I apply what I have read to my life today?



## **John 3:16 Bible Study Conclusion**

Read John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20. God is knocking at the door of your heart. He is inviting you to become His child, a son or daughter of the Most High, Almighty God.

He desires to give you eternal life that begins today with hope, joy, and peace. This eternal life then lasts forever with Him in heaven. All you need to do is repent and “believe in Him.” This means changing your mind about sin, self, and Jesus. If you have never experienced salvation, you can say a prayer like the one below. What is holding you back?

Dear God, I know that You love me. I know that I am a sinner. Jesus, I believe You died on the cross to pay for my sins. I believe God raised You from the dead. I now turn from my sin and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. Come into my heart, forgive my sins, and give me a real love relationship with You. Amen.

**If you prayed this prayer or if you have questions about what you have learned in this study and would like to talk to someone you can email**  
**[biblestudy@careonthesquare.org](mailto:biblestudy@careonthesquare.org)**

# Final Section - Conclusion

## What's Next

We would invite you to continue your study by downloading a free in-depth study on the entire book of John using the following link or QR code.

- [http://www.careonthesquare.org/images/Full\\_Study\\_Of\\_John.pdf](http://www.careonthesquare.org/images/Full_Study_Of_John.pdf)



## Additional Resources

- Several free online commentaries are available to help you as you study. Here are a few:
  - <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/>
  - <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/>
  - <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- If you do not have access to these online commentaries, you should be able to find one at your local library.
- Use the following link or QR code if you would like to see sample answers to the questions in this study of John 3:16.
  - [http://www.careonthesquare.org/images/John316\\_Sample\\_Answers.pdf](http://www.careonthesquare.org/images/John316_Sample_Answers.pdf)







# CARE N THE SQUARE

This booklet is dedicated to Doug Delfeld  
whose life and words inspired its creation.



*write a bibliography that  
is tailored to a specific  
person and needs -*

