FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

John 3:9–21

Key Verse: 3:16

1. Why did Nicodemus ask “How?” again? In verses 10–12 what are the “earthly things” Jesus had spoken of? What might the “heavenly things” be? In light of verse 13, why should Nicodemus accept what Jesus is saying?

2. What was the incident of the bronze snake, and how did it illustrate what it means to “believe”? (14a; Nu21:4–9) What does “lifted up” mean, and how was this fulfilled? (14b–15; 12:32–33) What does it mean to “believe in” Jesus who was lifted up? (Ro4:5,23–25)

3. Read verse 16. How did God provide a way of salvation for the whole world? (1Jn2:2) How does his giving “his one and only Son” show us the characteristics of God’s love? How should we respond to it, and what is his promise? (16b)

4. What truth do verses 17–18 teach about God? How do people end up condemning themselves?

5. Who is the light, and in what two ways do people respond to him? (19–20) Why do some people hate the light? What does it mean to “live by the truth”? To “come into the light”? What does this suggest about Nicodemus, who came at night? About the real nature of unbelief?