

WORKOUT

JOHN 3:16-21

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PONDER

Read all of John chapter 3, focusing on verses 16-21.

Ponder what it means to believe in Jesus.

- Use your Bible app or the [ESV website](#) to do a word search on the word “believe” to see all biblical occurrences of this English word. Scan through the list, prayerfully asking the Lord to help you think about belief in a way that is consistent with how Scripture talks about it.
 - Pay attention to any other words or themes that repeat whenever the Bible talks about belief.
- Use the [STEPBible](#) website or [Blue Letter Bible](#) to do a word study on the word “believe” to see all the biblical occurrences of the same Greek word. Pay attention to different contexts where the same word is used and to other ways the same word is translated into English.
 - For more on how to do biblical word studies, check out [this article](#) from The Gospel Coalition.

Consider the connection between belief and trust. Why is the person who does not believe condemned already (vs 18)?

- Why does belief, as Jesus speaks of it here, require faith? Do we need to understand in order to believe (vs 7-8)?

Consider the connection between belief and Jesus’s worth. Read Matthew 19:16-26. Why does Jesus say that only with difficulty will the rich enter the kingdom? How does our treasure reveal our belief?

Consider the connection between belief and action. Read James 1:22-27 and 2:14-26.

PRAY

Pray Holistically

Read John 3:16-18. Pray in adoration of the love of God that sent His Son to save the world.

Pray Personally

Read John 3:2. Nicodemus knew that Jesus was a teacher who had come from God, but this was not saving belief. Read John 3:18-19, and pray that we would not only acknowledge who Jesus is, but would trust in His name, repenting of the evil works that we love and coming to Him—to the light.

- Father, in my sin I stand condemned. Yet in your love, you sent your Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life. Help me to hate the darkness, to love the light, and to believe in the name of your Son.
- Consider the sins that you love, the things you want to keep hidden, and the temptations that you continually return to. Pray in confession of these specific things.

PRACTICE

Last week, you wrote out your conversion story. This week, share your own story of God working in you with another Jesus follower, and together, praise the Lord for the hope of life in the gospel.

- In this conversation, practice talking about the gospel and the gift of grace that God sent His Son into the world (vs 16-17).
 - If you are unsure how to talk about the gospel in everyday conversation, use the handles of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation as a starting place. For more on the gospel narrative and helpful Scripture references, check out tcbchurch.org/gospel.
 - God is perfect and holy. He created the world good, but mankind rebelled and our sin has corrupted ourselves, our relationship with God, and the world. In His kindness, God sent Jesus to make a way for our redemption, through His sinless life and sacrificial death on the cross. All who repent of sin and trust in Him will have new life in Him!
 - For more on the gospel, check out *What is the Gospel?* and the corresponding [Blueprint Guide](#) from the Resource Center.
- Talk about how God has continued to work in you to make you love the light more than the evil works of darkness (vs 19-20).