



Lesson 3

Sharing the Gospel Using John 3:16

*Use this most familiar Bible verse to explain
God's message to mankind.*

John 3:16 GOOD NEWS...made simple!

Lesson 3

Sharing the Gospel using John 3:16

John 3:16 is the **most recognized verse in the world**.

It contains God's main message to man - how to be **made right in God's sight**.

It shows how to begin **experiencing the LIFE God desires** for us - *now and forever*.

It addresses **basic needs only God can fully meet**: *love, acceptance, belonging, purpose, forgiveness, provision and the hope of living forever with God in heaven*.

- Below are **suggestions for leading into sharing the "GOOD NEWS"**.
- Also note the **COACHING TIPS** provided for sharing your faith.

LEADING INTO SHARING THE GOSPEL

START by ASKING A QUESTION, something like...

Have you ever heard of John 3:16...

*It's a very important verse in the Bible. It contains **God's main message to mankind** and what He desires for us...*

May I share with you what I've discovered in this verse? (or what God wants us to have and experience)

COACHING TIP:
ASK PERMISSION TO SHARE

It shows respect. And their answer will tell you if you should proceed.
Also it helps you as a witness to not have to "force it to happen".

If they say "no", take it as an indication that God would not have you share with them at this time. Thank them and silently pray for an opportunity sometime in the future.

USE THESE 5 KEY QUESTIONS TO GUIDE THE CONVERSATION

1. **What does God want us to experience?** (Talk about LIFE.)

2. **What keeps us from experiencing this?** (Talk about the WORLD (sin).)

COACHING TIP:
MEMORIZE THEM

There isn't a lot to memorize with this method. However, **memorizing these 5 questions** early on in your learning will go a LONG way in helping you become comfortable, confident and competent in sharing the Gospel.

3. **How does God feel about this?** (Talk about GOD's nature.)

4. **How did God solve our problem?** (Talk about the SON (Jesus).)

5. **How do we begin to experience what God desires?** (Talk about BELIEVES.)

Once memorized, they will **easily guide** what you want to say. With a little study and practice, it will come natural.

Most of you know how to share your faith better than you think. Usually it's just a matter of organizing what you **ALREADY KNOW!**

SHOW THEM JOHN 3:16

For **GOD** so loved the **WORLD** that He gave His one and only **SON** that whoever **BELIEVES** in Him will not perish but have eternal **LIFE**.

COACHING TIP:

EMPHASIZE WORDS IN BOLD

These 5 key words serve as "talking points" as you explain the Gospel.

EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL

Once you're in a spiritual conversation and have **obtained permission to share**, explain the Gospel using John 3:16.

(Below is an example along with "coaching tips" for each question.)

(Question #1)

What does God want you to experience?

[Talk about LIFE...something like this.]

Real LIFE is what God desires for you. He wants you to experience "real life" that addresses "real needs". Life to the full both now and forever (eternally).

God wants you to know His **acceptance** of you, right **NOW**, and experience His **love**, **forgiveness** and **peace**.

It means to experience **hope** and His **help** *now* and throughout your life.

And to discover and life with real **purpose** and

COACHING TIPS:

Ask the 1st Question - You ask it just to guide the conversation. Just to set the stage for what you first want to talk about. (You're not expecting them to give an answer.)

You might say something like, "**Let's first consider 'what God wants us to have and experience'. As we look at John 3:16, He's referring to LIFE but it's much more than just breathing and existing on this earth.**"

Then explain how God wants to impact our lives *now* and...*forever*.

Now: By experiencing *His love, acceptance, peace, purpose, etc.*

(What the Bible refers to as the "abundant" or "full" life.)

EMPOWERED to do what is right in His sight. Plus the hope and **assurance** of living with God **FOREVER** in heaven.

These are desires and needs we have, but...

[Choose several key words/phrases that would help you remember this.]

(Question #2)

What keeps you from experiencing it?

[Talk about the WORLD (our sin)...something like this.]

This is a broken world. It has a disease called **SIN**. Why? Because it is the home of sinful people.

Each one of us is a sinner - **we all fall short** of God's perfection. We tend to ignore Him and do things or have thoughts that are not pleasing to a holy and perfect God.

Our *sin* creates a division and **SEPARATION** from Him. This breaks our relationship with God *now* and will result in a *permanent separation* from His presence.

That's what is meant by "perish" referring to a place God calls hell - a place without light, love and Him.

But God cares about you so...

[Choose several key words/phrases that would help you remember this.]

Forever: Having the assurance of going to heaven eternally with God.

[Note this message addresses basic needs people have and long to have met. These are needs that only God can fully address. As a result, many people will identify with this message.]

Give an example or two how God has helped you and made a difference in your life. If they are going through a difficult time, point out that **God cares** and wants to **help them** too.]

[General Suggestion: Focus on LIFE benefits...**NOW** and **FOREVER**.]

COACHING TIPS:

Use the 2nd question to guide the conversation

Instead of bluntly accusing calling someone sinful, it can be helpful to start talking about sin by looking at a "**broken**" world and why it is that way. Secondly, noting we are "**all sinners**" which would include the person you are speaking with.

Helping people realize their sin and consequences help them **realize their need of a Savior**. Note that sin is anything we **do, say** or even **think** that is not pleasing to God. (The 10 commandments quickly reveal sinfulness.)

As sinners we stand guilty and already "condemned" by God - we must be rescued.

Consider how much you want to talk about hell. Saying the word "hell" sometimes slams the door on a conversation. Will it help or will it shut down the conversation? Look to the Holy Spirit to guide you. Maybe just talking about "going to be with God in heaven" would be sufficient.

[General Suggestion: Focus on... **SIN** and **SEPARATION**.]

(Question #3)

How does God feel about this?

[Talk about GOD...something like this.]

God **LOVES** you and wants you to experience His love.

Yet He's **holy**, perfect and **JUST** therefore He must punish sin. His perfect justice requires that He **punish sin**.

Because He loves you, God doesn't want you to perish. He doesn't want you to be separated from Him *forever* because of your sin.

And God **wants to help you** break the problems it causes *today through a close relationship with Him*.

So God, in His love for you, did something to solve your problem!

[Choose several key words/phrases that would help you remember this.]

(Question #4)

How did God solve your sin problem?

[Talk about the SON...something like this.]

God solved your sin problem in **Jesus**. He is the "SON".

Jesus is **both GOD and man**. He lived a sinless, **perfect** life and didn't deserve to be punished.

COACHING TIPS:

Use the 3rd question to guide the conversation

Here is where you point out that God **loves us** but He is also **just and must punish sin**.

But in His love, **He solved our problem** in Jesus.

[General Suggestion: Focus on... God's **LOVE** and JUSTICE.]

COACHING TIPS:

Use the 4th question to guide the conversation

Point out that the "Son" refers to Jesus.

Point out that Jesus **IS God**...in the flesh (John 1:1 and 14).

Point out that He came to die taking the punishment of our sin. Because He is the infinite God He could take all of our sin.

But Jesus **DIED** on the cross taking upon Himself the punishment you deserve.

Then Jesus **rose** from death to live forever.

And Jesus wants you to experience life to the full now and forever in relationship with Him.

[Choose several key words/phrases that would help you remember this.]

(Question #5)

How do you begin experiencing 'real' life?

[Talk about BELIEVE...something like this.]

You need to believe (trust fully) in Jesus.

It means to have *faith* in **WHO He is** - God in the flesh.

It means to *trust* in **WHAT Jesus did** for you on the cross. He died to take the full punishment for all your sin so you might be forgiven.

Jesus is **alive** and desires to have a personal relationship with you. You can begin to experience life as He desires for you by receiving or inviting Him into your life.

[Choose several key words/phrases that would help you remember this.]

ASK THEM

_____, do you **sense Jesus speaking to you** to take this step of faith and believe (trust) in what He has done for you?

Because He was and is "perfect" Jesus is the **perfect sacrifice**.

Make sure to point out that Jesus **rose** from the dead - He (God) is **alive today** to help us through a personal relationship with Him!

[General Suggestion: Focus on... Jesus being **GOD** and His **DEATH**.]

COACHING TIPS:

Use the 5th question to guide the conversation

Help them understand what it means to "believe" by referring to words like "trust" and "faith".

Faith in Jesus being God, the perfect sacrifice.

Trust in His death being sufficient to punishment for our sin.

Believing Jesus is alive to walk with us, guide us and lead us home to heaven with Him someday.

[General Suggestion: Focus on faith in... **WHO** Jesus is and **WHAT** He did for them.]

COACHING TIPS:

As we witness, we can trust the Holy Spirit to reveal the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus "real" and present.

HELP THEM

(If they are ready to respond to Jesus' invitation.)

Great! You can take that step today. It's as simple as **A-B-C**:

- **Admit** that you have sinned and need His forgiveness.
- **Believe** in Jesus. That He died taking your punishment and rose forever to offer you life to the full.
- **Commit** to letting Jesus shape your life and choose to follow Him as your leader.

Prayer is simply talking to God. It's a way to express your faith and respond to His invitation.

I suggest that we pray right now and tell Jesus what you want to do.

Are you comfortable praying without my help? Otherwise I can help you by leading you in a prayer.

Here is a sample of how you can express your desire to follow Him:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I admit that **I am a sinner** and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died on the cross to take the punishment for my sin. **I believe You rose again** and are alive to help me live a life in friendship with You. **Thank you** for Your love and acceptance. Jesus, I want to commit my life to follow You. **Come into my life** and change anything that is not pleasing to You. Amen.*

Make this very personal. Use their name and simply asking if they sense Jesus presence and encouragement to respond to His invitation.

Remember, it's really Jesus who is asking to enter into relationship and receive His forgiveness.

COACHING TIPS:

Use **A-B-C** as a good way to remember what it means to make this commitment to respond and follow Jesus.

It also can serve as a simple outline for the prayer.

PRACTICE PRAYING A PRAYER OF SALVATION!

Role play it with another Christian to get **comfortable** doing it.

You don't want to keep you from helping someone who is ready to respond.

If they are not ready to respond:

- Thank them and offer to pray for them if it seems appropriate.
- Leave a tract they can look at later.
- Continue to pray for them and, if possible, watch for the opportunity to talk again later.

THOSE WHO RESPOND:

- Getting exposed to the Word of God is crucial. Do what you can to help them start reading the Bible.
- Can you invite them to study the Bible with you or a small group?

- Help them find a Christ-centered, Bible teaching church to attend where they can be encouraged and supported
- Do they have friends that need to hear this? Offer to go with them to share this good news or provide them tracts to give to their friends.

LEADERS SUGGESTIONS FOR LESSON 3

[Note: Depending on how interactive your participants are, this lesson may require more time.]

- Using the Leaders Notes, go over the **introduction**.
- Go over *Leading Into Sharing The Gospel*
 - **Asking Permission**
 - **Memorizing the 5 Key Questions** that guide you as you explain the Gospel
- **Go over each Key Question** and use the **Coaching Tips** to share what to emphasize in answering each question.
- Point out that there isn't a precise way to answer them so they don't have to memorize an answer.
- Have participants **jot down significant words** in the box for each question on their John 3:16 Worksheet. Words they will use to help **remember** what they want to talk about to answer the question.
- Once you've finished and participants have filled out their John 3:16 Worksheets have them use them to **practice** with another participant.

(www.christianwitnessingtools.com)