John 3:16 What does it mean?
In a nutshell, it tells the main message of the Bible, that is, how you can experience life to the full both now in this life... and forever. What keeps us from experiencing this and how can we begin?

By focusing on 5 key words...

**Life**
God reveals what He wants you to know and experience.

**World**
The world is us; every man/woman, boy/girl, you/me.

**God**
The world (you) are loved by God.

**Son**
We exist in 1 of 2 realities, either:

**Believe**
This points to our sin problem. Apart from God's forgiveness, this is the road we are on. Our sin breaks our relationship and we ignore Him. This will lead to a permanent separation from God and His love. A place the Bible calls hell. This is not God's desire for you.

Real life is where God meets your deepest needs:

- To experience His acceptance, love and forgiveness just as you are.
- To live with purpose and experience significance in this life.
- To know God, our Creator, personally in Jesus.

Jesus said...
I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

What does John 3:16 tell you about the WORLD?
(What words reflect something about the world?)

**whoever**
The world is us; every man/woman, boy/girl, you/me.

**loved**
The world (you) are loved by God.

**perish**
This points to our sin problem. Apart from God's forgiveness, this is the road we are on. Our sin breaks our relationship and we ignore Him. This will lead to a permanent separation from God and His love. A place the Bible calls hell. This is not God's desire for you.

**life**
A full real life now and forever in heaven is what God desires for the world... and that means you! Either you have it or you don't.

The Bible says...
All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

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In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Bible says...
and forever.

What does John 3:16 tell you about the SON?
(What words fit with Son?)
His...
Points to the special divine (God) nature of Jesus.

What does John 3:16 tell you about BELIEVE?
(What words fit with believe?)
have (eternal life)...
Not maybe, not hope so, but God wants you to be 100% sure you 'have' eternal life... now and forever. It's by 'believing' that you have eternal life.

What keeps you from experiencing it?
World (us) – Because of our sin we separate ourselves from God. This breaks our relationship with Him now that will result in a permanent separation from God (perish... that is 'hell').

How does God feel and respond?
God – God loves you. He must punish sin but doesn't want you to perish because of your sin. But God solved your sin problem in Jesus.

How did God solve our sin problem?
Son – Jesus, being both God and man, lived a sinless perfect life. He did not deserve to be punished. But Jesus died on the cross taking the punishment you deserve. He paid the penalty for your sin to restore your relationship with God. Then Jesus rose from death to live forever. Now you can be forgiven and live life to the full, without guilt or shame, now and forever.

How do you begin experiencing real life?
Believe – Only by believing (trusting) in the risen Jesus alone and what He did for you on the cross, can you experience life as He desires for you now and forever.

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.

To summarize:
What does God want you to experience?

Life – This is what God desires for you. Life to the full in relationship with Jesus, now and forever (eternal). To experience His love and discover real purpose in your life.

What keeps you from experiencing it?

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To see how personally God loves and cares for you, place your name in the following blanks.

For God so loved _____ that He gave His one and only Son that (if) _____ believes in Him, _____ will not perish but _____ (will) have eternal life.

Does this make sense to you?
Do you sense Jesus speaking to you to take this step of faith and believe (trust) in what He has done for you?

Take that step today:
• 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 receive Jesus, choosing to follow Him as your leader and letting Him shape your life.

Prayer is simply talking to God. Here is a sample of how you can express your desire to follow Him:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know 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 live for You. Come into my life and change anything that is not pleasing to You. Amen.