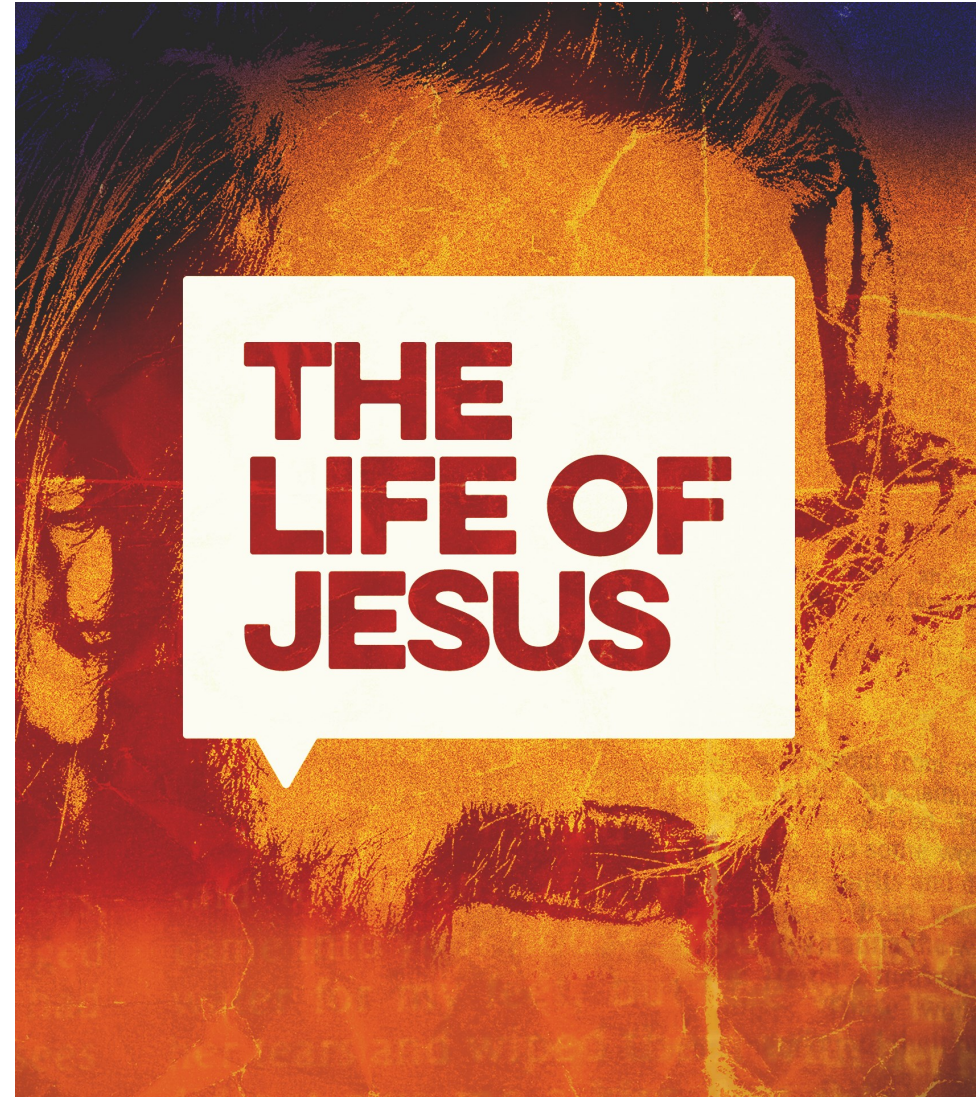


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# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

**NORTH:** Jan. 24/28 | **SOUTH:** Jan. 31/Feb. 4 | **CHAPEL:** Feb. 11



## JESUS & NICODEMUS

Pastor Mike Toomey



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo.hope.org/resources)

# JESUS & NICODEMUS

## **READ:** John 3:1-16

The purpose of Jesus' life is your eternal destiny. In the story of Jesus and Nicodemus that truth is made evident. The story begins with Nicodemus, who from all appearances has done well in life. He's a holy man. He's a religious leader. In fact, he's a religious leader among leaders, and yet there is something missing in his life. So, he goes searching for Jesus. Jesus has been doing great things. Obviously, God is working in Jesus. Nicodemus has seen it or at least heard about these signs. He comes secretly to Jesus in the dark of night, but he comes with hope.

When Jesus talks, he often talks in ways that people don't immediately understand. It's like Jesus is talking at some other level than his hearer. This is true in his conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus talks about being born again. Nicodemus is thinking biologically; Jesus is talking matters of the soul. Jesus' speaking and Nicodemus' understanding come together when Jesus makes the allegory about the bronze serpent in the wilderness. (Numbers 21:4-9) Jesus basically says, "I'm like that bronze snake. When it was lifted up, and the people looked at it, they were healed and they lived." Jesus, too, would be lifted up, and all who look to him have eternal life.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

1. John 3:16 is perhaps the best known verse in the Bible. Being well known, it shows up in all sorts of ordinary places. Where have you seen people, or companies publicly use John 3:16?
2. Why do you think John 3:16 is so widely known?

3. When was a time you and another person were talking at completely different levels?
4. How are you like Nicodemus?
5. If you needed to put the purpose of Jesus into a nutshell, what would you say?
6. What does this story mean to you?
7. How can you use this story so other people might know Jesus?

## **PRAYER**

Father in heaven, thank you for Jesus and all he accomplished on the cross. Thank you for the gift of life you give us through him. Help us to hear this good news and believe it. Help us to live out this good news so that others will see this gift of new life in us. Help us to share this eternal life with many. Amen.