

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of October 18, 2020

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## MY STORY

If you were writing the script, what would God’s redemptive plan look like?

**QUICK REVIEW:** Looking back at this week’s teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jim said “Jesus is love.” What do you think the person on the street would understand that to mean? What does Jesus mean?

Matt. 5:43-44; 22:38-39

John 13:34-35; 14:15, 21

2. Many people see God as one who is quick to judge and condemn them. Why is that? How can we help change their perception?

John 3:16-17

Romans 5:8

1 John 4:10

3. How is “an act of faith” different from “believing in God”?

4. Jesus said that we prefer darkness to light (John 3:19-21). Why? What changes our minds?

John 6:44; 12:32; 16:7-11

## TAKING IT HOME

John 3:16 is a very positive verse but there is a very negative word in it. Why is it important not to downplay that word?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

### **WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME**

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

### **PRAY MORE THAN ONCE**

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

### **WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE**

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Missionaries of the Month** Please pray for Ryan and Julie Christian, as they seek to provide counsel and encouragement to missionaries throughout the world.

**Upcoming Prayer Vigil** Join us Tuesday evening, October 20<sup>th</sup>, any time between 6 and 8pm for a time to pray and be encouraged.



## **The Gospel of John---That You May Believe** ***The Love and Light of Jesus***

John 3:16-21 (ESV) Jim Vandermeer October 18, 2020

### **The Great Why of Scripture**

*Why* did God choose to redeem His creation like He did?  
John 3:16—"The entire gospel in one verse"--reveals the Father's heart and gives us the answer.

#### **I Jesus is LOVE**

God's Acts—He *loved*, He *gave*, so that *we wouldn't die*.

Jesus' Purpose—Not to *condemn*, but to *redeem*.

An Act of Faith—Our simple act of faith saves us because God is *perfect* and He is *just*.

#### **II Jesus is LIGHT**

Light has come.

*We love the Dark*, because our *Works are Evil*.

Light *Exposes* Sin.

Light *Reveals* Truth.