

Bible Study

For small group discussion or personal journaling

John 3: 1-17

*also references 5/30/21 sermon by Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas
“Secrets”*

Day 1. Memorial Day. Read John 3:1-17.

Memorial Day, which falls on the last Monday in May, honors the men and women who died while serving in the military. Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It originated during the American Civil War, when citizens would place flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle.

- To begin this week’s study, take some time to share or journal about Memorial Day and what it means to you.
- Take some time, also to share or jot down a few initial thoughts about this week’s scripture reading.

Day 2. Nicodemus. Read John 3:1-2. Read also 7:50-51 and 19:38-40.

Nicodemus is a respected Pharisee, a religious leader and teacher of the law, a member of the Sanhedrin, who comes to see Jesus “by night.”

- Based on these readings, do you think Nicodemus is a faithful follower of Jesus? Why or why not?

Day 3. The Kingdom of God. Read John 3:3-10.

The phrase “kingdom of God” appears in John’s gospel in this passage only.

- From your reflections on these verses, how would you describe John and his

community in terms of their understanding of the kingdom of God?

- What is your understanding of the kingdom of God?
- How is it different or similar to John's understanding?

Day 4. The Spirit and the Cross. Read John 3:11-17. Read also Numbers 21:4-9.

Note that, in vv. 15 & 16, "eternal life" is a synonym for "born from above." Jesus' teaching has moved from the Spirit to the Cross.

- Reflect/journal about the "Spirit" verses (vv. 3-10) and the "Cross" verses (vv. 11-17).
- In your personal faith, which concepts connect more for you? – eternal life, born again, winds of the Spirit, Jesus "lifted up"? Which are a struggle for you?

Going deeper... The Trinity. Read John 3:1-17 once more.

We observed Trinity Sunday this week. The Trinity is never directly mentioned in the Bible; however, the 3 persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – appear in many different contexts.

- Take a few moments to review this passage and pull out verses or phrases that refer to the 3 persons of the Trinity.
- Which member of the Trinity speaks to you most strongly at this point in your faith journey?