



Wrestling With God's Word
Wk 3/4: Jesus Judges And Saves
October 17 & 18, 2020

LEADER PREP

SCRIPTURE

[John 3:16-21](#)

THINK ABOUT THIS

The **overall main point** for this series is that **when wrestling with God's Word, we can trust God's wisdom and character.**

The **overall series goals** of small group are for students to realize:

- (1) **Every Bible verse is good for us and has authority in our lives.** (based on 2Tim 3:16)
- (2) **Our lives are better and have greater purpose when we live in God's wisdom.** (based on 2Tim 3:17)

Today we are focusing on the "T" and "R" in T.R.A.I.N.:

Trust God's wisdom.

Remember God's character.

Sometimes we might not like a Scripture because we feel like a loving God wouldn't say or do such a thing. But God IS Love and truth. God is justice and forgiveness. God sees a bigger picture than we do; we can trust Him, and He sometimes tells us things we don't like to hear for our own good.

Most people (including me) don't throw a party when they read a Bible verse about God's judgment. **But the truth is if we don't understand God's judgment, we don't understand His grace either.**

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

We must believe in Jesus to have our sins forgiven.

GET THEM TALKING

What are some reasons we don't we enjoy being judged?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HAND OUT THE T.R.A.I.N. CARDS. (OR FOR VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS, SCREENSHARE [THE SLIDE](#) ON YOUR SCREEN.)

Have a different student read each point to review.

Ok, let's train!

READ [John 3:16-21](#) and answer the following questions:

1. What do these verses say about God's love?
2. Why is it so important for us to believe in Jesus?
3. What do these verses say about God's judgment?
4. What do you think about this statement: the truth is if we don't understand God's judgment, we don't understand His grace either.
5. How can we trust God's wisdom and remember God's character when we read Bible verses that describe a part of God we don't understand or prefer, such as His judgment?
6. Do you think it is loving to share the truth in these verses with others? Why or why not?

NEXT STEP

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Say a prayer to God, telling Him that you love Him and you trust Him. If you don't feel ready to say those things, what is holding you back? Talk to God about it this week.

THIS SERIES CHALLENGE: Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17. We encourage you to do it together as a group!

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students for their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

John 3:16-21 (NLT)

¹⁶“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

¹⁸“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”