



## Weekly Devotionals for March 11-16

### Monday, March 11 Read Numbers 21:4-9

The Israelites didn't have to do anything special such as make a sacrifice, pay money, or even say a prayer, they just had to simply look and have faith in God. Do you think the Israelites had to be convinced to just simply look and have faith? What stops many of us today from looking and having faith?

### Tuesday, March 12 Read Psalm 13

Despite how terrible David felt in the beginning of this Psalm, he still trusts God. There are many things that challenge our resolve and give us anxiety. David still has faith, just as we should still have faith. Who are some people in your life that have shown great faith? How can you ask God to help you to show faith?

### Wednesday, March 13 Read John 7:32-53

The Pharisees are once again angered that Jesus is claiming His deity. They refused to believe Him and even wanted Him arrested, but the temple police were too astounded by Him. We also see Nicodemus for a second time. What do you think Nicodemus was risking by defending Jesus here? Are there situations where you can stick your neck out and talk about Jesus with someone?

### Thursday, March 14 Read Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus is warning the people that only a few will follow Him and have eternal life. Many will stay in the wrong path and completely miss the narrow trail. Who are some people that have helped show and keep you on the narrow path? What are some markers or blazes that have kept you on the path?

### Friday, March 15 Read John 19:38-42

We have the third and final appearance of Nicodemus in the Bible. He has gone from the curious man who sought Jesus under the cover of darkness, to the man who begins to stand up for Him, to the man risking it all to honor Him. Has your faith journey seen similar steps? Where would you say you are on your journey?

### Saturday, March 16 Read Matthew 5:13-16

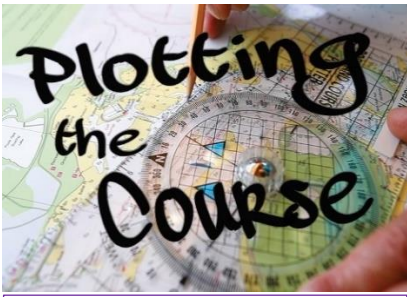
Once we begin to follow Jesus, our sins are brought into the light and can be seen. Not by God, He has always known our sins, but by us. As disciples, our sins should now bother us and we should seek to discover and pursue Him as much as we can. And this includes eliminating what separates us. What parts of you are still clinging to the dark? Do you have an accountability partner or group that you can open up about your sins to?

### Sermon Notes

#### "Blazing a Trail"

March 10, 2024      John 3:14-21

- 1. The first marker we follow is a saving faith.**
- 2. The second marker we follow is Jesus was sent to save the whole world.**
  - A. His sacrifice wasn't great because the world is so big, but because the world is so bad.**
- 3. The third marker is obedience to the Light.**



## Week #4: "Blazing a Trail"

# Small Group Discussion Guide

### Part I. Taking in Our Surroundings

1. **Look at Sermon note #1 and with that in mind, read John 3:14-21.**  
**Share:** "Nicodemus had a lot of faith in God. He wouldn't have followed all these rules and customs if he didn't. What was the saving faith that he was missing then?" Discuss the following:

- How do you think you are to live out these three Latin words in your life?
  - Notitia-Knowledge of Jesus and Who He is.
  - Fiducia-Trust that Jesus is really Who He said He is.
  - Assensus-Committing to live in obedience to Jesus.

### Part II: Plotting Our Course

1. **Look at Sermon note #2 and discuss the following:**
  - Have you ever prayed for God to help you see someone the way He does? Who was it or the situation?
  - Who are some of the "others" that you encounter every day?
  - What is keeping you from sharing the Gospel with people that you know aren't believers? How do you start this process?
2. **Look at Sermon note #3 and discuss the following:**
  - What is the purpose of an accountability partner or group? Why is it important to find someone that you can be honest with and they can be honest with you?
  - What are the attributes of a good accountability partner?
  - What are the obedient things that you consistently do?
3. **Read John 7:45-52 and John 19:38-42** Share: These are the other two accounts of Nicodemus.
  - How would you describe Nicodemus' faith journey?
  - What do you think ended up happening to Nicodemus?

## LENT

Pray Fast Give

*If you are currently practicing some or all of the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving, use this space to reflect on what you are discovering on this journey.*

**Praying:** What obstacles and distractions are hampering or limiting your prayer life? Discuss this with God.

**Fasting:** How has fasting/sacrificing helped you slow down and reflect more?

**Giving:** Has giving helped you to understand yourself a bit better in terms of your relationship to god and if so, how?