

WEEK | DAY FOUR | ONE

People can tell a lot about you by what you love. If you tell me you love to cook, that tells me a lot about you and your personality. If you tell me that you like to play video games, I learn a little about what makes you tick. If you tell me you love the outdoors, I know something about who you are. Certainly, what you love doesn't tell me EVERYTHING about you. But, in some ways, we are defined by what we love.

Read John 3:16-21. This is a super familiar verse. But we often stop at John 3:16. The context for this verse is pretty cool. There is a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Pharisees were kind of Jesus' enemies, but not because they were evil people. They thought they were doing the right thing. They were opposed to Jesus because they were trying to protect the way they had always honored and related to God. They didn't believe Jesus was the Son of God. They thought He was taking away from the God they knew. They were dead wrong, of course. And they 100% contributed to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. But some among them were open to the idea that Jesus could be who He said He was. Nicodemus was one of those Pharisees. He was curious about who Jesus was and came to Him at night to talk with Jesus more. Amid this discussion, Jesus shares the truth of John 3:16-21.

At the end of this passage, Jesus makes an interesting statement. He said that light had come into the world, but people love the darkness. When Jesus mentions the light in the world, He is, of course, talking about Himself. And in what had to be an awkward moment, Jesus was at least partially implying that Nicodemus could be one of the people who love darkness instead of loving Jesus. Jesus compares two people: the person who hates the light and the person who loves it.

As you go further this week in your discovery of what it means to live a life of light, let's start by asking ourselves what it means to be someone who loves the light of God.

Questions to consider


1. In your own words, what does it mean to be someone who "loves the light" of God?



2. Do you know people who seem to reject Jesus? Does it seem harsh to think of these people as people who love the darkness? But isn't this what Jesus is saying? How do we reconcile this tension?



3. Jesus equates loving light with living in truth. Why do you think it's important to be clear that Jesus is the only true source of light and life?



4. Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to lead you to be someone who loves the light in real practical ways. Ask Him to give you the strength to authentically live a life that reflects His light to the world around you.

