
Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.
1. The Son of Man is a title for Jesus. What do you think He meant when He said that the Son of Man must “be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life”?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What did God do because He loved the world? Why did He do this?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. To condemn something is to judge it to be wrong or evil. What did God send His Son to do instead of condemn the world?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Another title for Jesus is Light of the World. Why do you think this is a good title for Jesus?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
The *Kerygma* Discussion Guide

**Directions:** Conduct a discussion with your class using the questions and information below.

1. Who is Jesus?

2. What does Jesus mean to you? Explain.

3. Why did Jesus come to earth, suffer and die on the Cross, and rise from the dead?

4. What does Jesus ask of you?

5. What is your reaction when you hear that Jesus loves you?

6. Do you believe in Jesus and His promises? Why or why not?

7. Explain the following points to your students:

   - *Kerygma* is a Greek word for “preaching” used in the New Testament.

   - We use *Kerygma* today to mean the proclamation of the basic Gospel message that all Christians understand and believe.

   - The Apostles and the early Church used the basic points of the Kerygma to tell others about Jesus and invite them to become members of the Church.
This week’s Gospel reading can be thought of as the heart of the Gospel. The Kerygma is summarized by one of the most well-known Scripture passages, John 3:16, which we read as part of this week’s Gospel: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

» Write the whole passage of John 3:16 on the board.

Many people memorize John 3:16 because it contains the Kerygma.

» Challenge your students to memorize John 3:16. You can have them practice writing it out and reciting it over a period of days to commit it to memory.

The following are the most important parts of the Kerygma: (Consider writing these on the board as you discuss them.)

» God loves us and made us in His image and likeness to love Him and to love one another.

» The first man and woman (Adam and Eve) turned away from God’s love. God never stopped loving us and promised to send a Savior (the Messiah) to save us from sin. God prepared us to receive salvation throughout Salvation History (which we read about in the Bible).

» Jesus is God’s promised Savior (the Messiah), who was crucified and rose from the dead to save us from our sins and invite us to eternal life with God in Heaven.
Jesus ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Jesus calls everyone to Him through the ministry of the Church.

The Kerygma requires a response from us to repent of our sins, receive the sacrament of Baptism, and keep Jesus’ commandments.

Ask your students the following questions, referring to the written out John 3:16 on the board:

» Which part of John 3:16 refers to how God loves us? (Circle “For God so loved the world…”)

» Which part of John 3:16 refers to how God sent us a Savior, Jesus His Son, who died on the Cross for our sins so we could have eternal life? (Draw a box around “…He gave His only Son…” and “…might not perish but might have eternal life.”)

» Which part of John 3:16 refers to what we have to do in response to the Gospel message? (Underline “…everyone who believes in Him…”)

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Kerygma Acrostic Poem

Directions: Write an acrostic poem about the Gospel message. Each line of the poem should begin with a letter from the word Kerygma.

K ____________________________________________

E ____________________________________________

R ____________________________________________

Y ____________________________________________

G ____________________________________________

M ____________________________________________

A ____________________________________________