
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. What did Jesus say must happen to the Son of Man so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life? What is Jesus really referring to?

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

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3. What did God NOT send His Son to do? What will He do instead?

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4. Why do those who do wicked things (i.e. sin) prefer the darkness over the light?

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5. Why do those who live the truth come to the light?

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The *Kerygma* Pre-Reading Questionnaire

**Directions:** Answer the questions below honestly and to the best of your ability.

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?

   

   

   

   

   

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Directions: Read about the Kerygma. Then, answer the questions and respond to the writing prompt.

Kerygma is a Greek word for “preaching” used in the New Testament. We use it today to mean the proclamation of the most basic Gospel message, which is understood and believed by all Christians. This week’s Gospel reading is often said to be the heart of the Gospel. In fact, 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. (John 3:16)

Because the Kerygma is so precisely captured in this one sentence, many people have this verse memorized.

The Kerygma emphasizes the following key concepts:

- God loves us and made us in His image and likeness to love Him and to love one another.
- The first man and woman sinned and rejected God’s love. God continues to love us and promised to send the Messiah to save us from sin. God prepared us to receive salvation throughout Salvation History.
- Jesus is God’s promised 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.
- He 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.
1. Circle the part of John 3:16 that includes the first two bullet points of the *Kerygma*.

2. Draw a box around the part of John 3:16 that includes the third and fourth bullet points of the *Kerygma*.

3. Underline the part of John 3:16 that includes the fifth and sixth bullet points of the *Kerygma*.

4. Write a paragraph in your own words that explains the *Kerygma* to someone who has never heard the basic proclamation of the Gospel before.

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