

Our Church

Today's Message – "Narrow the Focus, Stay the Course" (Part 1)

Message Study Guide

Introduction

New churches are opening all across America each week with excitement, optimism, and passion about the future. Each church has a desire to make a difference in people's lives. But what many churches don't realize is that it is possible to get so caught up in trying to do everything that they lose sight of simply doing the main thing.

You see, God not only requires that we do the main thing; He requires that we do it well. John recorded a simple, yet profound conversation in John 3:1-7 between Jesus and a man named Nicodemus. When examined closely, we see that this passage holds the golden key to "Our Church"!

Discussion Outline

1. "Our Church" Mission
 - Point people in the direction of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Lead people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Equip people to continue their personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. "Our Church" Strategy
 - To create environments for people to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
3. "Our Church" Success
 - Changed lives!

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think church attendance is at an all time low today? Be very specific in your response by listing them 1-10.
2. Have you ever found yourself not wanting to go to church? Have you ever thought or said that church is boring? If so, why? Be specific!
3. Could you explain to someone how they can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Write out on a piece of paper what you might say.
4. Why did Nicodemus wait until night to speak with Jesus? What practical lessons can we learn from that fact?
5. What is the most important word found in John 3:16? Why is it so important?

Think About It

Jesus made it very clear to Nicodemus that the only way he could ever be close to God and have a personal relationship with Him was to be "born again". At first, this statement must have completely overwhelmed him. Then Jesus included a simple word found right in the middle of John 3:16 that must have caused his heart to leap in joy! Believeth! That simple word means to "trust in, rely on, and cling to". Now he knows the secret to this personal relationship.

Do Something About It!

Write down the names of individuals you know who needs to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Now what are you going to do about it?

Be Willing To Change

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn....." John 3:17