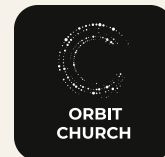


I'm Scared to Look

2024-09-30 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 3

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Israel was dying from snakebites they had brought on themselves, and God's cure was strange: look at a bronze snake on a pole. Face the very thing that bit you. Jesus told Nicodemus he would be lifted up the same way. Pastor Matt opened with a recurring dream about a door he was afraid to look at, and made this point: we love the dark because light shows what is really there. But whatever stays hidden stays stuck. Seeing how much God loves you starts with looking at what you have been avoiding.

To get started

- What is something you kept avoiding, and what happened when you finally faced it?

Looking back at the message

Pastor Matt opened with a recurring dream about a door he was afraid to look at.
Use the image, not the dream analysis.

- 1 Pastor Matt described a dream about a door he dreaded even looking at, and said most of us have a door like that somewhere. What is the door you avoid looking at?
- 2 Pastor Matt said hidden things follow a path: first comfortable, then stale, then stuck. Where do you see yourself on that path right now?
- 3 Street preachers with megaphones are technically right about sin, Pastor Matt said, and still unhelpful. What makes the same truth land as good news instead? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Numbers 21:4-9 first, then John 3:14-21. The order matters.

- 4 Read Numbers 21:4-9. The people were bitten because of their own rebellion, and the cure was to look at a bronze snake on a pole. Why do you think God made the cure require looking at the very thing that bit them?
- 5 Read John 3:14-18. Jesus compares himself to that snake lifted up. What is he saying about how people get healed?
- 6 Verse 18 says whoever does not believe stands condemned already. How is starting out condemned different from being condemned for what you did?
- 7 Read verses 19-21. Why does the passage say people love darkness instead of light?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The goal is looking toward Christ, not staring at sin. Say that clearly so nobody leaves in shame.

- 8 What have you kept in the dark because you know the light would name it?
- 9 Pastor Matt said his money only got better after he and his wife sat down and looked at the numbers they had been avoiding. What have you been avoiding sitting down to face?
- 10 How do you look honestly at your own sin without getting stuck staring at it?
- 11 John 3:16 literally says whoever believes into Jesus, belief that moves toward him. What would it look like for your belief to move? OPTIONAL

The group together

Bringing something into the light usually requires a witness. That is what a group is for.

- 12 What makes a group safe enough to bring a hidden thing into?
- 13 When has someone responded to your honesty in a way that actually helped? What did they do?
- 14 What would change in this group if everyone stopped performing?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you will bring into the light this week, and who will you bring it to?

You might pray about

- For courage to look at what we have avoided
- For freedom from guilt and shame after forgiveness
- For people carrying something nobody knows about