

Jesus

our saviour

Start Here

Read this true story together

Thirty-three miners in Chile were working deep in a copper mine. They suddenly heard a terrifying noise and felt the earth shake. The rock above them collapsed.

The sheer size of the rock meant there was no way out – they were trapped 2,300 feet underground. Unable to save themselves, the dark tunnels of the mine would soon become their grave – unless others rescued them.

Above ground, family and friends didn't know if they were even alive, but a rescue team went to work. They drilled a hole about 5 inches wide all the way down to where they thought the miners were trapped. They sent down food, water and a message, and waited for a response.

The miners, overjoyed that they had been found, sent a note back up saying all 33 were still alive.

So began the long and dangerous work to find a way to pull each one out of the dark pit.

Engineers finally managed to drill a hole large enough to send a capsule to pull them out one by one. Sixty-nine days after the rock had collapsed, all 33 miners were rescued.

Do you remember a time you needed rescuing? Or when you rescued someone else?

Main Idea

One of the most beautiful verses in the Bible is John 3:16. It teaches us that God loved the world so much that he sent his Son to rescue us from darkness and bring us into his kingdom.

Sin separated humanity from God. Like the Chilean miners, we were trapped in our own dark pit, headed toward death.

But, as we saw in the last step, God is a good father. He knew that we could not get out of our desperate situation and find our way back to him in our own strength.

But he did not abandon us to death. The whole Bible is the story of God's plan to save us through Jesus. John 3:16 is a beautiful summary of how he has rescued us. In this verse we understand the heart of the Gospel.

Explore the Word

Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to help you understand John 3:16 as you read and reflect on it.

Take turns reading the verse aloud at least 7 times slowly. Each time emphasize a different word in the verse. For example:

- “For **God** so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (NIV)
- “For God so **loved** the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- “For God so loved the **world** that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- And so on.

At the end, see if you can repeat the verse to each other by heart.

Discuss

Reflecting on John 3:16, answer the following questions:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he come?
- What does it mean for you and me?

Practice Together Now

Since you have become a Christian, how has Jesus worked in your life? What ways do you still feel the need to be rescued?

Spend the last few minutes together in prayer:

- Thank God once again for sending Jesus to rescue us so we can have eternal life.
- Ask Jesus to deliver you from the situations you have just shared with each other.

Review your Practice Daily

- Keep repeating your memorization of John 3:16. Share it with one other person every day.
- Talk with others about John 3:16:
 - Ask another believer what is meaningful about this verse to them. Be prepared to share your thoughts as well.
 - If an opportunity arises, share the verse with someone who is not yet a believer, and explain what it means to you.
- Reflect this week on the following verses. As you do, answer the three questions: Who is Jesus? Why did he come? What does it mean for us?
 - Col 1:13-14
 - 2 Timothy 4:18
 - Luke 4:18