

## SMALL GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

### The Holy Gospel According to Saint John

#### Lesson #3

- 1) Have someone read Chapter Three and then take time to discuss it.
- 2) Note the role of Nicodemus. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, the 71 Judges who considered important cases concerning Jewish law.
- 3) Nicodemus was also a Pharisee, one of the parties mentioned in the New Testament. Pharisees considered themselves observant Jews, faithful in all things to the Law of Moses – the 613 laws Jews were supposed to observe. These laws were impossible to follow for the average person.
- 4) Nicodemus comes at night. Why?
- 5) Jesus tells Nicodemus that unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. To what does this refer?
- 6) Jesus challenges Nicodemus to step beyond what he knew and consider what Jesus is telling him.
- 7) Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man. Where does the term come from? Consult Daniel 7:13-14 here.
- 8) What does verse 15 mean? What does it mean to believe in the Son of man? Notice the promise connected with this faith.
- 9) Verse 16 is quoted by Fundamentalist Protestants as the key to Salvation. Faith. Catholics believe that faith is necessary for salvation but not sufficient. Catholics believe that one must also put his faith into practice. Fundamentalists believe faith is sufficient for salvation. Discuss how these two positions differ.
- 10) Consider what it means that the Father so loved the world that He would sacrifice His Son for us. How great a love is that?

11) Notice the themes of light and darkness in verses 19 to 21. Christians are to be people of the light.

12) Saint John the Baptist makes an appearance. Notice that at this time he was baptizing at springs near a place called Salim and not in the Jordan River. Notice too that Jesus baptized. At this point, Saint John willingly recedes from the picture. Jesus increases and Saint John decreases.

13) Verse 36 is important. Belief in the Son includes obedience to His words. Those who do not obey shall not see life.