

**A Servant's Heart:  
Sacrifice**

**Background**

- In John 3, Jesus is having a discussion with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a respected leader in the Jewish religious community. He had come to privately to ask Jesus questions, which would have been scandalous for a religious leader! Nicodemus is asking how to enter the kingdom of God and have eternal life. Jesus responds with v16 – 17.
- In Ephesians, Paul, a follower of Jesus is writing a letter to the Ephesians (a group of Christians living in Ephesus), where he further explains Jesus' point in John.

**Observe: What's there?**

- Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.
- Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.
- Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

**Interpret: What does it mean?**

- Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?
- Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.
- Answer your questions from the text and context.
- Why is this passage or story here? Try to summarize it in one sentence.

**John 3:16-17 & Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)**

——— **PRAY** (to lead into the study)

**Start with Introduction**

- Have everyone introduce themselves! Ask for their name and how they are entering into this study today.
- Ask the transition question:  
*How and when have you experienced sacrificial love?*  
(Leave space to think, have 2-3 people share)

**Background Leader's Notes**

- Go through the background/context of the passage, keep it brief.
- State the transition to next part: reading out loud, reading silently, then observations.

——— **READ OUT LOUD** (go around, have each person read 2-3 verses)

- Transition: Explain observations and say what to look for during silent reading.

——— **READ SILENTLY** (~10 minutes, adjust as needed)

**Observe Leader's Notes**

- Try to direct people away from answering any questions here. Save all questions for interpreting.
- REMEMBER: The goal is people will observe the passage, finish observing before moving onto interpreting questions.
- Transition: Ask if there are any remaining observations/questions, then start interpretation (answering discussion questions).

**Interpret: Leader's Notes**

- Go through the questions one at a time, try to have multiple people answer the question with their ideas.
- When done with questions, ask people to silently summarize the main point of the passage in 1-2 sentences (Give 2-3 minutes to write it down)

*Leader's Main Point: Jesus showed us the purest form of sacrificial love by coming to take the punishment of our sins, through dying on a cross.*

——— **SHARE MAIN POINT** (Rapid-fire share around the circle)

**Application Leader's Notes**

- Read the application question out loud, allow for ~5 minutes to think and write applications down.

Take a few minutes, brainstorm a few places where you could sacrificially love in your contexts. What would that look like in the hospital? At school? At home? Write down one way you will sacrificially love this week.

- Have people share as willing (You can write them down to ask about later!)

——— **PRAY** (to exit the study)