

**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 (NIV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

²As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Application: *So what?*

(Tear this off as a reminder for the week)

As you end your study, reflect on how Jesus may be inviting you to apply these passages to your life:

- 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.

Write your personal application commitment here: