

5. Have you “believed in him” in the way that is described in this gospel? If so, when did that first take place? If not, what prevents you from doing so now?

# Sermon Notes

“The Inside Scoop”  
John 3:16-21  
December 24, 2017

## Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

*Family Research Institute of Wisconsin*

Pray for the Wisconsin Family Council - for God's wisdom to continue the fight for Christian values for our state.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-24-17

## Getting Started:

1. Describe a time when you had a misconception that was corrected – when you thought things were one way, only to later learn that you were wrong in that matter.

## Digging Deeper:

Read John 3:15-21.

2. Consider the following chart. Note any observations (i.e., how many groups, what distinguishes groups, etc.) and any questions this raises.

Description of people	“everyone who believes in him” (3:15, 16, 18)	“whoever does not believe [in him]” (3:18)
Legal standing before God	“not condemned” (3:18)	“stands condemned already” (3:18)
Destiny	“may have eternal life” (3:15, 16)	“perish” (3:16)

3. What is the significance of the word “already” in 3:18?

How is this similar to the word “stay” in the phrase we studied last week – “so that no one should ... *stay* in darkness” (John 12:46)?

4. According to this Gospel, our response to Christ is absolutely crucial to our eternal destiny. What does it mean to “believe in him”? Before answering, consider other phrases used by John in this Gospel (both those that are parallel in meaning as well as those that are contradictory in meaning). Look for expressions in the following passages that describe our response to Christ. (John 1:11-12, 36-37; 3:36; 4:14; 5:24, 43; 6:35, 40, 53-54; 7:37-38; 8:42, 49, 51; 10:9; 12:48; 17:3, 8; 20:30-31). Separate those phrases into two columns (parallel and opposite meanings). Summarize your observations and then suggest a definition of “believe in him.”

Parallel Phrases

Contrary Phrases