

Preparing Your MY316 Gospel Presentation

A famous Bible teacher was once asked the question, "What is the greatest thought you have ever had?" His answer came from a song he learned as a little child: "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Truly this is a great truth! God loves me. And God loves you. This is a truth that followers of Jesus Christ in all ages have come to know. It is found in many places in the Bible, but the best known verse is John 3:16.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJV)

This means that God loves all the people of the world. It also means that we best know God's love for us because he gave his son, Jesus, to live on this earth in perfect obedience to God the Father. Then Jesus died on the cross for our sin. He was buried and on the third day he rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and one day, very soon, Jesus will return to this earth. This will mark the end of history as we know it and the beginning of life lived in heaven itself.

God wants you to know for certain that you have eternal life. The Bible assures us that we can know God and have eternal life. John 3:16 tells us that:

- God loves each of us. He loves every person in the world.
- God gave his only begotten son, Jesus, to live for us and die for our sins on the cross (see also Romans 5:8).
- We must believe in Jesus in order to have eternal life. The word "believe" means that we must commit our life to him and follow him as our Lord and our God.
- Believing in Jesus means we will not "perish," meaning we won't spend all of our life and all eternity in hell separated from the presence of God.
- When we turn our life over to Jesus by believing in him, he gives us "eternal life." Eternal life begins the moment you believe in Jesus and begin to follow him, and it continues into heaven itself.

Committing Your MY316 Story to Memory

In order to make your MY316 story something that you can easily share, you must commit it to memory. By memory, this does not mean that it only becomes firmly planted in your mind, but also that it takes deep root in your heart.

Read your MY316 story ten times out loud, or until you have committed it to memory. Read it for others and let them help you refine your MY316 story. This step is vital to your ability to tell others what Jesus means to you, in a natural way, while also helping them to understand that God loves them too.

People I Know with Whom I Want to Share MY316

You are ready to tell others your story and God's story, using John 3:16. Write the names of everyone you know who isn't following Jesus. These can be family, friends, and acquaintances. In some cases, you simply may not know whether they know Jesus or not. Pray for them that they will come to know Jesus.

Which three will you pray for regularly that they will come to know Jesus Christ?

With whom will you share your story and God's story (John 3:16) this week?

How will you show them that you love them and that Jesus loves them?



Using what you already know

–YOUR STORY
AND JOHN 3:16–

to share Jesus with your
friends and family.

MY316 is based on **your personal testimony** and John 3:16, the best known and most loved scripture in the world. **Even those who are unchurched** and reveal no relationship with Jesus are favorable toward it. Thus, John 3:16, which is **the gospel in a nutshell**, is also a bridge for sharing Jesus with many lost people because it's a verse they **already know**. Not only do they know John 3:16, the fact that Jesus himself spoke these words makes them even more powerful when **sharing Jesus** with the spiritually lost.

May God richly bless you as you **equip yourself** to share **the good news** of Jesus Christ!

Taking it Personally,
AZSBC Church Life Team

Arizona Southern Baptist Convention
www.azsbc.org

The generous giving of Arizona Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program has made this resource possible.

Unless otherwise indicated, the scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®**, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® **Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.**

God so loved
the world
that he
gave his
only
begotten
son

My Story with Jesus

It will be very helpful to you to write a brief description of what Jesus means to you. This is your story of following Jesus and it's one that you need to share with others. The following is a simple outline for writing your story. Write two to four sentences under each of the outline points.

- **My life before I believed in Jesus** (How did you feel? Afraid? Hopeless? Lack of peace? Lack of purpose? etc.)

- **How I became a follower of Jesus** (Did someone tell you about Jesus? Was there a particular scripture verse that helped you come to follow Jesus?)

- **My life now that I believe in Jesus and follow him** (I have purpose, peace, assurance of knowing God, freedom from fear, etc.?)

**take it
personally.**

Transition YOUR STORY → JOHN 3:16

After you have shared your story, you will quote John 3:16 and explain what it means. The following are some options as to how you can transition from your story to John 3:16:

TRANSITION OPTION #1

"Jesus said something that has come to mean a lot to me. Jesus said, 'For God so loved...'"

TRANSITION OPTION #2

"The most wonderful truth I have ever heard is something Jesus said. Jesus said, 'For God so loved...'"

You may have another transition statement that fits your story and situation better. That is perfectly fine. But it is important that you know how to make the transition between your story and God's story using John 3:16.

God's Story Using John 3:16

Now that you have briefly written your story, let's follow that with God's story from John 3:16. In your own words, write a few sentences describing what John 3:16 says and means. You can use the options provided above to help you. Be sure to write how you will transition from your story to John 3:16.

Transition JOHN 3:16 → ASKING FOR A RESPONSE FROM THE LISTENER

After you have quoted John 3:16 and explained what it means, you want to ask the listener to respond to Jesus Christ and the message you have shared. The following is a way you can ask for a response:

*"What do you think about Jesus' message in John 3:16?
Would you like to believe in Jesus and give your life to him?
You can ask him to be your Savior and Lord right now. I
can help you pray and ask Jesus to save you from your sin."*

You can use the example above to invite a person to respond to Jesus Christ, or you can write your own message in the space below.

eternal
life

should not
perish but

MY316, It's Your Story and God's Story

When you combine your story and God's story using John 3:16, you have a message that you can share with others. Be sure to think through how you will invite a person to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. The following example will help see how this can be done.

Example Presentation of a MY316 Story

There was a time when I had no peace in my life. In fact, if I thought about life very much I would feel afraid. I feared what death would mean. The only thing I knew is that death would forever separate me from my family, from all those I love. And honestly, I didn't see a whole lot of hope in this life.

Then I was introduced to the person who changed my life. I'd heard of Jesus before, but I didn't know him. And I didn't realize how much he loved me and that all he did he did for me. I came to believe in Jesus and I gave my life to him.

Jesus took away my fear that death would separate me from God and everybody I love. He actually gave real purpose to my life.

Jesus said something that has come to mean a lot to me. He said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (NKJV)." Jesus is talking about himself. Jesus is God's son that was sent to me and you, because God loves all people in the world. The Bible says that if you will believe in Jesus you will have eternal life. To believe in Jesus means to believe he loves you. To believe in Jesus means you believe he died on the cross for your sin of not obeying God. To believe in Jesus also means you believe that he was raised from the dead to live forever as your Savior and Lord. To believe in Jesus means to turn away from your sin of living life without Jesus, and trust Jesus to save you from your sin.

What do you think when you hear John 3:16? Would you like to believe in Jesus and turn your life over to him? If you would like to know Jesus right now, you can pray and ask him to come into your life, cleanse you of your sin, and save your soul. Pray this prayer with me:

God, thank you for loving me. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sin and was raised from the dead to show your love. I trust Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I commit my life completely to you. Thank you for your forgiveness and free gift of eternal life.