**John 3:16 – The Mission of God Leader Notes**

**Hook**

**1. What’s the most dangerous thing you’ve ever done and (obviously) lived to tell about it?**

**2. What’s one thing you’re hoping to get for Christmas?**

**3. How would you sum up your personal mission (or the mission of our church) in one sentence? Is it possible or seemingly impossible?**

**Book - Read John 3:16-18**

**4. When you see someone at a major sporting event with a sign that says: “John 3:16” on it, what’s your reaction?**

**Look**

**5. What is unique about Christianity among other religions that is captured in John 3:16?** Grace – the notion of God’s love that comes to us without conditions.  **Read Romans 5:8 – What’s so shocking about grace?**

**6. What major events in the Bible make the love of God believable?**

Creation; the incarnation; the Cross; answers to prayer; miracles of Jesus.

**7. Read 1 John 4:18 and Romans 8:1,2. Do you struggle with fear, negative self-image, guilt, self-condemnation, shame? How might a full conviction of the truth of John 3:16 change some of those internal struggles? What else helps us to believe that we are accepted and loved?** (The love and acceptance of others)

**8. What’s the difference between believing that Jesus is the Son of God and believing in the Jesus, the Son of God? What does saving faith require?** (Belief in Jesus saves us. Charles Blondin was a famous high wire walker that illustrates the difference – people believed that he could push someone across the Niagara River in a wheel barrow, but nobody took the invitation to get in.)

**9. What barriers stand in the way of your faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus?**

**Took**

**10. If someone you knew was a victim in the violent attack on Paris, would you be able to forgive the attackers?**

**11. Is there a special Christmas gift has God been leading you to make lately?**

**12. Since God loved the world, how are you doing at loving His creation and other people?**

Pray that God would give your group members boldness (with sensitivity) to share the message of John 3:16 with others this Christmas. Pray for God’s love to overcome any fears that are weighing you down.