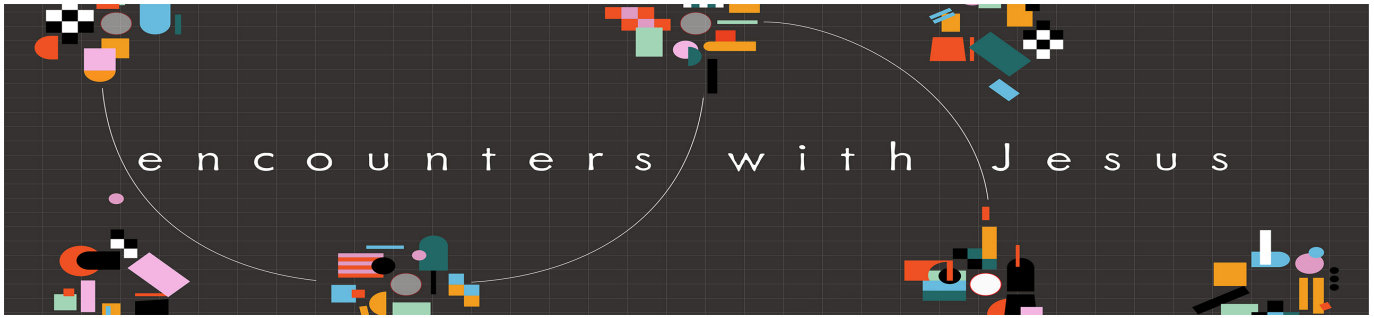




8/16/2026 | Nicodemus

Reflect + Discussion

- Have you ever received a gift or act of kindness you knew you hadn't earned or deserved? What was that experience like for you?
- Read John 3:1-4. What does Jesus mean by being "born again"? How does this challenge Nicodemus's view of "behaving" in a way to win God's favor?
- Read John 3:5-12. Pastor Matt highlighted the difference between the "worldly language of performance" and the "heavenly language of grace." What worldviews and practices in our culture tend to keep you in performance mode? What spiritual truths and practices help you move out of performance mode and rest in grace?
- How does it make you feel to know that even Nicodemus, who studied and followed God's law as his job and was highly respected by others, was not sure of his standing with God? Do you feel secure in your own standing with God? Why or why not?
- Read John 3:14-15. Read Numbers 21:8. What do these verses reveal about our performance vs Jesus's performance? What does it practically look like in daily life to "look to Jesus" instead of our own performance?
- Read John 3:16-17. According to these verses, what do we have to do to be saved? Think of the illustration of placing your full weight on a chair. How does that picture help clarify what it means to trust or believe in Jesus?
- Pastor Matt reminded us that the more we encounter God's reckless love, the more we are changed. How has this been true in your life? Is there an area of your life where you've been trying to "perform" and you need the reminder of how much God loves you?
- In what ways have you experienced Jesus's reckless love? Did anything new emerge for you during the response time after the sermon, as we sang "Reckless Love"? Has this week's sermon deepened your understanding of John 3:16? If so, how?

Pray

Pray that we may grow in our understanding of what it means to be deeply loved by God. As the familiar words of John 3:16 rest in our hearts this week, help us truly grasp that we are saved by *believing*, not by behaving. Free us from the pressure to perform, and let the truth grace anchor our hearts. Pray that as we reflect on this message, that we will be transformed more and more into the image of Jesus.

Next Steps

Check out the [resources](#) page for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out [courses](#).