

We're so glad you're here today!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some helpful information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The Westwood Kids team is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out westwoodcc.org.

Communion

Today we will experience communion. We invite everyone who is a follower of Jesus to participate. You do not need to be a member of Westwood Community Church. The bread and cup will be passed to you as you are seated. Hold each element until everyone has been served. We will eat and drink together. Gluten-free bread is available at the usher stations in the back.

Easter RSVPeeps!

Celebrate our living hope! Easter services are at all three campuses. Check out the service times and RSVP for the service that works best for you on our website. **And don't forget to invite your peeps** (find more invitations at the Info Spot).

CONNECTING THE DOTS THE CROWN JEWEL

For 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. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3:16-21

The manner of love (agape) worth living:

- It's a love that is _____

Bible Reading Plan

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. Each day read a passage and take a few moments to reflect. These verses are chosen by our staff and designed to complement the Sunday message.

Reflection questions:
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How can I live this out today?

- 1 John 4:9–10
- John 3:16–18
- 2 Timothy 4:7–8
- John 3:19–21
- 1 Timothy 1:15–17

CONNECTING THE DOTS

You make ministry happen

Thank you for your financial giving! It allows the ministries at Westwood to continue throughout the year. In addition to our giving envelopes, here are some convenient ways you can give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving:



Online: A convenient and secure way to give is through our website. You can give a one-time or recurring gift.



Westwood App: Text westwoodapp to 77977 to get a response with a link to download the app.



Giving Kiosks: Small giving kiosks are located on the Chanhassen campus at the Info Spots.



Text To Give: Text the keyword "westwoodbsl", "westwoodchn" or "westwoodmtk" to 77977.

Connecting the Dots: The Gospel of John #11

The Crown Jewel

April 7, 2019

John 3:16-21

A note from Pastor Joel: This week I have given you many questions to consider because each is important. But you will not have time to cover them all. So select questions from each section that you would most like to address. Later, on your own, I encourage you to do a deeper study of this life-giving verse.

Read John 3:16-21

1. What is your favorite passage of Scripture? Why? What kind of hope and peace and strength do you get from that Scripture?
 - a. When was the first time you heard John 3:16? Have you ever memorized that scripture?
 - b. What is it about John 3:16 that most people really cherish and value?
 - c. Why is this a good passage to use in witnessing to those outside the kingdom?

2. The word for ‘love’ in John 3:16 is agape. We learn from John 3:16 several characteristics of this love that make it so transforming in our lives and relationships. It is the love worth living but it is not an easy love to express. Respond to the questions aligned with each characteristic discussed in this week’s message.
 - a. **It’s a love that is God.** Read 1 John 4:8 which reminds us that God is love. It’s the essence of Christianity. It’s a shocking attribute of God when you consider that no other religion would hold this view as core to the identity of their gods. Why does it matter that God is love? What does that mean to you?
 - b. **It’s a love that is inclusive.** What does the word “world” mean in John 3:16. Who is included to receive God’s love? *Agape* makes no distinction between friends and enemy; it is directed toward both. Why is this important? Why is it difficult for us to grasp? How does this truth speak to you about who you love and how you love people who are hard to love?
 - c. **It’s a love that is generous.** God gives...again and again and again. What has God’s love given you? Give examples. How do you give love to others that speaks to this generosity? Agape is a love in which the individual seeks not your own good, but the good of others. Pastor Joel says it’s a love that is a commitment to meet the needs when it’s not your need. How much of love is motivated out of a desire to get something back rather than to give selflessly? Can you give examples of how you try to love this way?
 - d. **It’s a love that is sacrificial.** People have different definitions of love, but when Christians define what love is we don’t go to a dictionary, we go to the cross! God revolutionized our understanding of love when he gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins. It’s a shocking love. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. Cross-Shaped Love is shocking to us once we read the Bible’s description of us. How do we know that God the Father loves us? To answer this question read the description of who we are in these verses say them out loud – Romans 5:8, Romans 5:6, and Romans 5:10. What does this say about the love of God for you and the way you love others?

e. **It's a love that gives life. Read John 3:16 again.** Jesus gives up everything that he is - so you can live. There was no sacrifice that Jesus was not willing to make, so that you could live. Talk about the life-giving ways of God's love in your own life. That is, how do you have life because of God's love for you personally.

3. Why did God send Jesus into the world? (Read John 3:17.) What is God's ultimate goal for every person? (Read 2 Peter 3:9.)

a. In verse 17, what is the state of the world without Jesus? What does it mean to be condemned?

b. For a world filled with sin and disobedience, what kind of a response would you expect from God? How did he respond? Read Romans 5:6-8 and Romans 8:1.

c. What do people outside the kingdom of God say about why Jesus came into the world? What would you say to someone who doesn't understand why Jesus came?