

# Weekly 4G Guide

# CBC

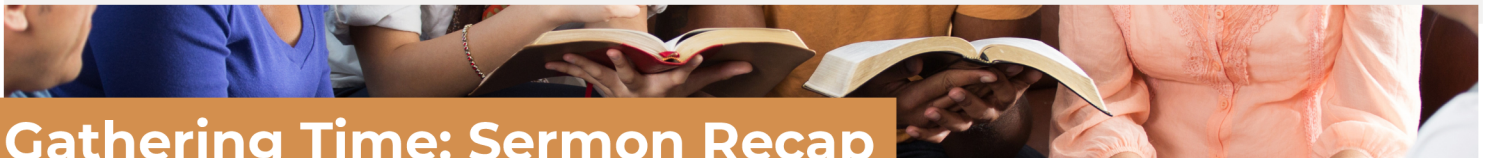
## How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

### What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



## Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

### Life in Jesus?

Today, Pastor Dan Busse preached the second sermon in the series *Like Jesus*. Dan preached from John 3:1-17.

We're diving into what it truly means to live like Him. If we want to follow Him fully, we need to ask some hard questions to gain deeper understanding of our faith. So today, I want us to wrestle with this: What does it mean to be a Christian?

There are a lot of different ideas out there, but let's look to Jesus, who shows us exactly what it means. In John 3, Nicodemus—a powerful religious leader—comes to Jesus at night. Despite all his wealth, power, and religious knowledge, he's still searching for something more. He has the external stuff, but there's an emptiness inside. He asks, What am I missing?

Jesus' response is revolutionary: unless you're born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God. This isn't about adding religion to your life; it's about a complete transformation!

Jesus tells Nicodemus that everything he built his identity on needs to be redefined. It's not about being good enough or following rules—it's about being completely new, born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus wrestles with this. Like him, we need to get real with our faith, ask the tough questions, and let Jesus answer us. But here's the truth: Religion is not about performance or a checklist. It's not about doing enough to earn God's love—it's about receiving it. Jesus took our place on the cross so that we could have new life, right where we are, in the mess of it all.

In the end, Jesus tells Nicodemus, No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born again. That's the essence of what it means to be a Christian—new life, a life transformed by the power of the Spirit, not by our own effort.

So, I ask you today: Are you really following Jesus? Or have you settled for something less? Because if we've really encountered Him, He changes us from the inside out, and our lives will never be the same.

## Group Time: Questions

### Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you ever had someone point you to Jesus in a really big way?

### Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the main point of the passage that was discussed in today's sermon?
- What is the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of the passage?
- Does the passage contain truths, promises, or commands to obey? What are they? As a group, make a list and pray for your hearts to align with God's Word.

- **Track 2:** How can we engage with those outside the church when they have questions?
- What barriers might prevent non-Christians from approaching Jesus like Nicodemus did?
- Jesus offered a radical truth to Nicodemus. How can we communicate truth in a loving way?

- **Track 3:** How does understanding your need for spiritual rebirth impact the way you view what God has done in your life?
- What area of your life is God calling you to surrender for a deeper transformation in Christ?
- How can you encourage one another to live out the reality of being empowered by the Spirit?

### God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Jn 3:1-2. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? Pray for courage in your faith.
- **Tuesday:** Read Jn 3:3. Reflect on your spiritual growth. What does being born again mean in your life?
- **Wednesday:** Read Jn 3:4-5. How does Jesus clarify that the rebirth He speaks of is a spiritual transformation?
- **Thursday:** Read Jn 3:6-8. Do you rely more on your flesh or the Holy Spirit? How can you submit more to the Spirit in your life?
- **Friday:** Read Jn 3:9-17. What does Jesus mean by the Son of Man being "lifted up"? How does this point to His death on the cross? How will you share Jesus with this week? Pray for boldness in your faith.

### God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading John 3:1-15** from today's sermon from the Easy-to-Read version.
- Give a **summary** statement about the sermon and the Bible passage in a way that your family can easily understand.
- **Ask:** How could someone get a new heart?
- **Say:** Jesus wants us to trust Him so He can give us a new heart by His Holy Spirit!
- **Activity:** Create a simple relay race where kids run to a station, pick up a piece of paper with a blessing written on it (e.g., love, salvation, joy, etc.), and bring it back. At the end of the race, everyone "becomes new" by putting all the blessings together to form the shape of a heart. Explain that the race made them "new" (stronger and healthier), and when we trust Jesus, He makes us spiritually new. This is a fun way to help kids understand how Jesus and His blessings transforms our hearts.

**Give:** How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?

**Demonstrate. Declare. Disciple.**

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