

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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March 10, 2024 • 4th Sunday of Lent • John 3:14–21

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## Living in the Light

*John's Gospel talks a lot about light and darkness. In the very first paragraph of his Gospel, John tells us that Jesus is the light of the world. John makes it very clear that we must live in the light, live in Jesus, if we are to have eternal life.*

In this reading we hear the famous quote from John 3:16 that we see so often cited by Christian fans at football games: Jesus came, “so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.” It is important to note that the eternal life Jesus offers us is not just a heavenly kingdom after we die—eternal life means much more.

The life we were born with is limited and finite. We know that every breath we take brings us closer to our physical deaths. The years and gravity take their toll on us, but what Jesus offers us is life outside of time and gravity. It is beyond the wounds and handicaps of our physical world, but it is also very much here and now.

Jesus offers us his life—life with, and in the Triune God in whom we believe. We come to this divine life by fully embracing our human life, just as Jesus did. We accept the limitedness of our humanity with all the pain and joy that entails. We do not suppress our human nature but engage in it fully, always drawn to the light that is Jesus.

We are asked to live each day in the truth of our eternal life so that “...it may be clearly seen that [our] deeds have been done in God” (John 3:21). There is no dichotomy—no spiritual above physical life. Teach your children to value the finite world, especially themselves, body, mind and spirit—one package—loved by God with all its blemishes.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Take turns telling what you like about each other. Talk about each person's physical as well as spiritual qualities.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

It is so important to always tell our children the truth. Their trust in us, and sometimes their trust in others later in life, is dependent on it. How good are you at always telling the truth? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?