

WE NEED TO TALK

Discussion Notes

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT JESUS

Philip started by saying that many Christians have a 'Za Za Bazaar' faith where we pick and choose which bits of faith we want to follow and which we want to leave out.

- Do you agree with this statement?
- If so, what does this look like in your life? Are there some areas that you find easy to follow? Are there some that you find hard?
- What impact does having this pick and choose faith have on us?

When we look at the miracles Jesus performed and the teaching he gave us it means we can't pick and choose. The story of Nicodemus shows us this. Read John 3:1-21 together.

- John 3:16 is a very famous verse - does reading the context around this verse change how you read this verse?
- Put yourself in Nicodemus' shoes - what is your reaction to Jesus' teaching? Are you just as confused? Shocked?

In verse 14 Jesus refers to himself as a snake that must be lifted up. The snake is a symbol of sin and evil so Jesus is explaining that when he is lifted up on the cross he will take on all of humanity's sin.

- Why is this different to other religions' view of salvation?
- What does this teach us about Jesus?
- What does it say about the extent of God's love for us?
- Read Galatians 3:13 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Both of these passages explain this idea. What do these verses teach us about us and our sin?
- How can we share this idea of humanity being sinful with our friends without it sounding judgmental? What difference would it make to our friends' lives if they understood what Jesus is saying here?

Nicodemus saw Jesus on the cross and so committed to burying Jesus. Normally this would be reserved for the closest family or friends. He put 35kg of expensive spices like myrrh on Jesus and wrapped his body - basically he is all in.

- What does it mean for us at the moment to recommit to Jesus?
- What is our modern day equivalent of putting 35kg of spices on the line?