

John 3:14–17

“For God So Loved the World”

As recorded in John 3, Jesus taught Nicodemus about His atoning sacrifice when He said that “the Son of Man [would] be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14–15). President Russell M. Nelson taught, “As we invest time in learning about the Savior and His atoning sacrifice, we are drawn to participate in [a] key element to accessing His power: we choose to have faith in Him and follow Him” (“Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 40). This lesson will give you opportunities to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ as you learn more about His Atonement.

What is the Atonement of Jesus Christ?

Think about what you know about the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Complete the following statements:

- Heavenly Father sent Jesus Christ to the earth to atone for us so that ...

- Some things Jesus experienced in Gethsemane include ...

- Jesus died on the cross because ...

- If Jesus had not suffered in Gethsemane and died on the cross, then ...

In this lesson, you will learn more about Jesus Christ’s Atonement and the love that Heavenly Father demonstrated when He sent His Son to the world. As you study, pay attention to promptings of the Holy Ghost that can help you better appreciate Jesus Christ’s sacrifice for you and increase your faith in Him.

The Savior’s Atonement

The following scripture passages and statement teach about the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Spend 10 to 15 minutes carefully reading through these sources (or other sources about the Savior’s Atonement that you are interested in learning from or that you found prior to this lesson). As you read, write about how each of these sources helps you better understand what Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ did for you and why.

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| • Luke 22:39–44 | • Alma 7:11–13 |
| • Luke 23:33–38, 44–46 | • 3 Nephi 27:14 |
| • John 3:14–17 | • Doctrine and Covenants 18:10–11 |
| | • Doctrine and Covenants 19:16–19 |

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Seventy taught:

What then is the Atonement of Jesus Christ? In one sense, it is a series of divine events that commenced in the Garden of Gethsemane, continued on the cross, and culminated with the Savior's Resurrection from the tomb. It was motivated by an incomprehensible love for each of us. It required a being who was sinless; who had infinite power over the elements—even death; who possessed a boundless capacity to suffer the consequences of all our sins and ailments; and who, in fact, descended beneath it all [see [Doctrine and Covenants 88:6](#)]. This was the mission of Jesus Christ—this was His Atonement. What then was its purpose? It was to make it possible for us to return to God's presence, become more like Him, and have a fulness of joy. This was done by overcoming four obstacles:

- 1. Physical death*
- 2. Spiritual death caused by Adam and by our sins*
- 3. Our afflictions and infirmities*
- 4. Our weaknesses and imperfections*

(Tad R. Callister, "[The Atonement of Jesus Christ](#)," Ensign or Liahona, May 2019, 85)

1. Answer the following question in at least three sentences.
- What feelings or insights did you have as you studied about Jesus Christ and His Atonement?

How is the Father's love shown in sending His Son?

John 3:16 is a doctrinal mastery passage. Consider marking doctrinal mastery passages in a distinctive way so you can locate them easily. You will learn more about this doctrinal mastery passage in the next lesson.

One of the truths the Savior emphasized as He taught Nicodemus about His Atonement (see [John 3:14–17](#)) is that **Heavenly Father loves His children so much that He sent His Only Begotten Son to atone for us.** President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency taught about how Heavenly Father's love is manifest through the Savior's Atonement:

There is no greater evidence of the infinite power and perfection of God's love than is declared by the Apostle John: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" ([John 3:16](#)). Another Apostle wrote that God "spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all" ([Romans 8:32](#)). Think how it must have grieved our

Heavenly Father to send His Son to endure incomprehensible suffering for our sins. That is the greatest evidence of His love for each of us! (Dallin H. Oaks, "[Love and Law](#)," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2009, 26)

- What did you learn from this statement?

Watch the video "[For God So Loved the World](#)", located at ChurchofJesusChrist.org, and look for how the love of Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father is shown.

2. Write two or three sentences describing your thoughts about or testimony of Jesus Christ and His Atonement.

How can I access the power Jesus Christ gives me through His Atonement?

President Russell M. Nelson taught the following about inviting the power of Jesus Christ into our lives:

As Latter-day Saints, we refer to His mission as the Atonement of Jesus Christ, which made resurrection a reality for all and made eternal life possible for those who repent of their sins and receive and keep essential ordinances and covenants. ...

... Our covenants bind us to Him and give us godly power. As faithful disciples, we repent and follow Him into the waters of baptism. We walk along the covenant path to receive other essential ordinances. ...

Covenant-keeping men and women seek for ways to keep themselves unspotted from the world so there will be nothing blocking their access to the Savior's power. (Russell M. Nelson, "[Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives](#)," Ensign or Liahona, May 2017, 40, 41)

How do I know if Jesus Christ and His power are working in my life?

President Henry B. Eyring of the First Presidency taught:

If you have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost today, you may take it as evidence that the Atonement [of Jesus Christ] is working in your life. For that reason and many others, you would do well to put yourself in places and in tasks that invite the promptings of the Holy Ghost. (Henry B. Eyring, "[Gifts of the Spirit for Hard Times](#)," Ensign, June 2007, 23)