

Interview Questions

1. **Why did you write *The Other Three Sixteens*?**

After memorizing and teaching John 3:16 to kids for many years, other 3:16 verses started to jump out at me when I'd read them. *The Other Three Sixteens* began as curiosity and God revealed so many treasures during the process. It became clear that it was too big to keep to myself; such goodness must be shared.

2. **Is there anything magical or special about the 3:16 verses?**

There's no magic formula to Bible study. In fact, the numbered verses have been added over time to help us study, they were not in the original books and letters. God's love is so immense it fills every part of Scripture, but we used 3:16 as our guide for this particular journey.

3. **What was the most surprising thing you discovered while writing this book?**

The biggest surprise was discovering love in unlikely places, in the dark and painful seasons of life. When God at first seemed the most distant, a second glance revealed that He was there all along doing amazing things.

4. **What chapter was the most difficult to address?**

The minor prophets were a challenge! The ancient messages of warning to Israel were similar and bleak, so it took a much closer look to recognize God's love there then and for us today.

5. **How do we reconcile the times when God doesn't seem loving at all, despite scriptures that tell of His care and nurture?**

One of our biggest challenges as humans is our limited perspective. We are so often blind to everything happening around us, especially when it comes to the divine and supernatural. We are distracted or we have already established our expectations, so we overlook how God loves us. We allow our hurt and anger to overshadow God's goodness and our impatience leads us to jump to premature conclusions before the Lord completes His perfect work in His perfect time.

6. **How did *The Other Three Sixteens* change you?**

Writing this book opened my eyes to the astounding ways God is active and tangible. So much of our journey is by faith and not by sight, but there is a lot to see when we are paying attention. God consistently keeps His promises and has purpose in the details. As I became more familiar with God's voice, I began to recognize Him more clearly.

Interview Questions - Continued

7. What qualifies you to write a book like this without attending seminary?

While seminary resources are wonderful, I've discovered such a wealth of books and online resources available to us all. We are truly blessed in this information age! God's Word is accessible to everyone, and the Holy Spirit gives us understanding when we study prayerfully and learn from the teachings of our pastors, teachers, and scholars. We often make the mistake of thinking God chooses favorites or that deep study is for special people. We even sometimes refer to the people in the pages of the Bible as heroes. But every child of God is special and He wants us all to know Him intimately. I am just an everyday person writing for everyday people, and I pray my example inspires others to enthusiastically study.

8. Is the God of the Old Testament truly as loving as the God we see in the New Testament?

Yes, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! The story of the Lord and His people is an intricate tapestry, and His justice and compassion are consistent over the ages. It requires big picture perspective, faith, and God's help as we begin to understand His mystery. We may not completely grasp His divine nature while here on earth, but I believe He will give us great understanding as we pursue knowledge and relationship with Him.

9. What does *The Other Three Sixteens* have to do with our average daily life?

The Other Three Sixteens has everything to do with everyday life. God is with us and working in our lives every moment. His love transforms the way we exist and love Him as well as love others. The decisions we make and our approach to challenges are all changed when we recognize God's active, tangible love in our lives.

10. Do extremely familiar Sunday school stories have anything new to teach us after we've read them over and over?

The Bible is a remarkable book like no other. We can read it multiple times and find fresh and new treasures. Our understanding of the stories grows into a solid foundation and we receive new revelations. As we grow, the familiar stories take on new dimensions. God's Word is the story of a lifetime.