



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Gospel of John: Experiencing New Life - John 3:1-21

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What people or images come to your mind when you hear the words "born again Christian?"

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Steve talked about the story of Nicodemus from John 3:1-21. Nicodemus gets so many things right yet he has one major, glaring problem; he doesn't understand that salvation is a gift from God. Our new identity as a Christian is received and not something that can be achieved.

1. What is something we can learn from Nicodemus in how he approached Jesus?
2. Jesus used the popular metaphor of "being born again" to describe the process of salvation by grace through faith. It is something that happens to you, not something you do for yourself. What is another metaphor that could be used to describe this process?
3. In what ways do you see yourself drawn to loving darkness rather than the light? (vs. 19)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 3:1-21]

Why do you think Nicodemus visited Jesus at night? (vs. 2)

What facts about Jesus did Nicodemus get right? (vs. 2)

What does it mean to be born of the water and the Spirit? (vs. 5)

What are the two things Jesus tells Nicodemus can't happen unless he's born again?

Who is the "we" and "our" that Jesus refers to in vs. 11?

What is the connection between Moses lifting up the serpent in Numbers 21 and Jesus being lifted up? (vs. 14)

How does vs. 16 fit into the context of the story with Nicodemus?

Questions that help us understand the significance of the text to us?

Why do you think Jesus was so direct with Nicodemus?

What point is Jesus making by comparing spiritual birth to the wind?

What happens to Nicodemus after this encounter? (John 7:50-51, 19:38-42)

Being born again is a vivid image of the "new life" a Christian should experience when they come to faith in the Lord. How have you experienced this "new life" in your own walk with the Lord?

APPLICATION

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?