

JOHN 3:1 - 3:36 Week of September 24, 2023

OPENING QUESTION: This passage of scripture is all about our NEW BIRTH spiritually. Before we dive into the text, take a few minutes and share some birthing stories.

READ John 3:1-15. What might have the scene of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus been like? Jesus uses three examples to get to the heart of this seeking Pharisee. Talk about them.

NEW BIRTH (v. 1-7): What was Jesus talking about? And why did Nicodemus have such a hard time understanding what He was saying? Why does Jesus us the examples of the "Water" and the "Spirit"?

How might this relate to the to first miracle? The Jews used ceremonial cleansing vessels to be clean. Do you see how it all ties together?

How is *Ezekiel 36:25-27* related to the idea of Water and the Spirit for our salvation? Bu what ways are we made clean and given NEW BIRTH?

How has your NEW BIRTH spiritually giving you a new appetite for God? What cravings and desires that you did have are now no longer part of your new Divine Nature?

THE WIND (v. 8-13): How is the Holy Spirit related to the idea of WIND? How is your NEW BIRTH a mystery like the WIND? What evidence do you have of the Spirit living in and through your life?

THE SERPENT (v. 14-15): Jesus takes Nicodemus back to this OT example of how God showed grace to His disobedient people. What parallels can you draw from Numbers 21 and the ultimate grace God displayed through His some Jesus on the cross?

When we talk about physical birth we know it is associated with Hardship, Toil, and Labor! How did Jesus experience those same things in relation to securing our Spiritual Birth?

NOTE: Leave time to READ the rest of John Chapter 3 (v.16-36) in your group together!!!! Take whatever time you have left to answer as many of the following questions you can.

- Why wasn't John the Baptist concerned about his status as a religious leader (v. 22-30)
- What was John the Baptist's PRIMARY mission in life? What should be ours?

Jesus gives a STRONG word regarding those who bear WITNESS in verses 31-36.

- How does bearing witness for Jesus allow others to see that Jesus is alive in our lives?
- What does belief in the Son mean for us? How might our lives represent that Truth?
- What does lack of obedience say about our belief and ultimately our future?

Continued.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY: Pray for each other and the concerns and needs you have as a group to close your time!

HOUSEKEEPIING:

Encourage your group to look at the dates for **SERVE TEAM Trainings** that are coming up on the app and make it a point to sign up for the ones that apply to them!

Only a few spots left for the SISTERHOOD Retreat!

Pray for our launch for **AWANA** next week!