



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“JOHN 3:1-15” ON MAY 24 + 28, 2023

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

JOHN 3:1-15 The last verse of this passage ends with the theme John is lifting up throughout this book: Verse 15 – “That whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.” Nicodemus had taken notice of Jesus – this learned leader and teacher in the Jewish faith – but he struggled with just WHO Jesus was and WHAT the signs that He did meant. He missed everything the Old Testament scriptures had pointed toward – the Messiah had come!

NICODEMUS SOUGHT OUT JESUS – and from this interaction Jesus made bold statements which caused Nicodemus to struggle – statements about being about SEEING the kingdom of God and ENTERING the kingdom of God – ideas that generated more questions from Nicodemus.

- What facts do we know about Nicodemus- What was his background, his experience, his role in the Jewish faith in Jerusalem?
- Nicodemus sought out Jesus at night – why do you think he did that? What do you think was the condition of his mind and heart as he approached Jesus, and what drove him to seek out Jesus at all? What was his spiritual state?
- Read Vs. 3 and Vs. 5 – what does it mean to ‘see’ the kingdom of God and to ‘enter’ the kingdom of God? What does that mean to you personally? Why is it so important to see it and enter the kingdom of God?
- Adam told us that it takes God in order to SEE God, and that we need God in us in order to ENTER into His presence. Discuss your understanding of that and how you have seen/experienced that in your own life! Then read Ezekiel 36:24-28 - What questions would you have for Jesus about all of that?

NICODEMUS NEEDED NEW THINKING! BORN AGAIN.....FLESH.... SPIRIT...Jesus’ statements made Nicodemus ask, “How can a man be born when he is old?” And “How can these things be?” Nicodemus was missing what was right under his nose, jumping out of the very Scriptures he knew so well.....the Messiah has come, and His name is Jesus! Jesus wanted to show Nicodemus new life that can only be found through Jesus – a spiritual rebirth! Read Vs. 3-8 and then read Romans 8: 1-11.

- What is your understanding of the term “flesh” as it is used in these scriptures? Where is Jesus trying to point Nicodemus’ thinking?
- Being ‘born again’ refers to our spiritual state. How concerned or aware are the people you see and interact with each day with their spiritual state? And you – how do you nurture your spiritual being compared to your physical being?
- What is your idea of who the Holy Spirit IS, what He DOES, and how that information affects your life? To what degree do you invite the Holy Spirit into your plans, your dilemmas, your decisions and your life in general – have you handed over the keys of your life for the Holy Spirit to control? How could you pray about that?
- Look back on your life – has God done a work in your life that you KNOW could not be from your thinking and doing alone?



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

**NICODEMUS NEEDED JESUS!** Jesus rebuked Nicodemus for being a learned teacher but not understanding the spiritual concepts that have eternal impact in our lives.

- Nicodemus should have known all the evidence from the Old Testament that prophesied about the coming Messiah. as he walked away from Jesus after this interaction described in Chapter 3, how do you think he would have processed the challenges Jesus presented, and how do you think this would affect his perspective when he next met with the Sanhedrin?
- Look at Vs. 11; How often do you speak of what you know and bear witness to what you have seen when you have the opportunity to influence those who do not know the Lord? How can you invite the Holy Spirit into that?
- Put verses 13 – 15 in your own words. How would Jesus' words here have impacted Nicodemus' thinking as a teacher of the scriptures, hearing Jesus compare His death on the cross to the uplifted brass snake in the Moses story?
- Why do you suppose John thought the meeting of Nicodemus and Jesus was important to include in his Gospel?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.