



## Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on October 1st, 2023 - Week 3

### John 3:1-17 (NASB)

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus at night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus \*said to Him, "How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb a second time and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus responded and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you people do not accept our testimony. 12 If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Have you ever wanted to learn about something or talk to someone but you needed to do it secretly? Whether yes or no, why would someone feel the need to do this?

### **Read John 3:1-8**

Do you blame Nicodemus for coming to Jesus at night? Why or why not?

What were some thoughts that Nicodemus and the rest of the Hebrew people had about the Kingdom of God at this time? How did one “see the kingdom of God” in their views?

If spiritual birth is like the wind, is it always seen in a person’s life?

What are some things a person does to show that they have been reborn spiritually?

### **Read John 3:9-15**

Why do you think it was challenging for Nicodemus to understand the concept of being born again?

Read Numbers 21:4-9 for the context of Jesus’ example

How does this Old Testament story relate to what Jesus is trying to explain to Nicodemus?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**Read John 3:16-17**

Why is verse 17 so important to remember along with verse 16?

How do we keep the truth in verse 16 from being cliché and powerless?

Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus challenges the idea of religious rituals and traditions versus a personal relationship with God. How can we apply this principle in our own faith practices today?

## TAKING IT HOME

## PRAYER REQUEST

