



If you met Jesus

Real stories. Honest Questions.



IF YOU MET JESUS, PART 1: NICODEMUS: HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH?

Most people assume following Jesus is about being good enough, trying harder, or checking the right spiritual boxes. But what if the real invitation of Jesus isn't about improvement—it's about rebirth? In a late-night conversation with a religious leader, Jesus introduces a concept that still confuses and transforms people today: being born again. This is an invitation to stop striving and experience the fresh start and new heart only the Holy Spirit can give.

BIG IDEA: You need a Savior to save you, not a system to heal you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could have a one-on-one conversation with any person in history, who would it be and why?
2. What's one question you'd love to ask Jesus if you met him face to face?
3. What are some ways people today try to 'earn' their way to feeling good enough? What's one personal system you tend to use to feel valuable or accepted?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read John 3:1-17](#).*

¹ There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." ³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." ⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" ⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹ I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. ¹² But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

[John 3:1-17 \(NLT\)](#)

5. Why do you suppose Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night? What does that say about him?
6. What does Jesus mean by being "born again"? Why is that language so challenging to understand and apply?
7. Jesus uses the Old Testament story of the bronze serpent ([Numbers 21:4-9](#)). Why do you think he chooses that image to describe his mission?
8. What's the difference between believing in Jesus for a fresh start vs. for a new heart?
9. Jesus says he didn't come to judge the world, but to save it. How does that reality reshape your view of God?
10. What 'system' might Jesus be asking you to surrender today? What would it mean for you to stop striving and start surrendering to Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, think about one way you can live out the kingdom of God in your life. Consider sharing this with your group members. Remember, you don't need a system to heal you—you need a Savior to save you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3