

# BELIEVE

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The background of the slide is a dark blue, starry night sky. A thick white horizontal bar runs across the top and bottom of the slide, framing the central text.

**1. I'm going to draw out a couple of  
Evangelism Insights from this encounter.**



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- 2. I'm going to define what it means to be born again.**

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- 2. I'm going to define what it means to be born again.**
- 3. I'm going to extend a general invitation to be born again to some of you here.**

**3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man  
named Nicodemus who was a member  
of the Jewish ruling council.  
2 He came to Jesus at night...**

**2 He came to Jesus at night and said,  
“Rabbi,**

**<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said,  
“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher  
who has come from God. For no one  
could perform the signs you are doing if  
God were not with him.”**



Evangelism Insight.

**1. If you want to reach people with the gospel, live a life that make people curious about spiritual things.**



**<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

**“But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ... for he himself knew what was in **man**.”**

**Now there was a **man** of the Pharisees named Nicodemus”**

Jn 2:24-3:1

**<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

Evangelism Insight.

**2. If we want to reach people for Jesus, figure out what matters to them most and apply the gospel to their need.**



**“Every time you see a tattoo this week, ask the person, ‘Why is that significant to you?’ It’s one of the greatest entrances to deep conversation that I know.”**



**<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

Leon Morris observes,  
**"In one sentence Jesus sweeps away all that Nicodemus stood for and demands that he be remade by the power of God."**



**4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”**



**<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered,**

**“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.**

**<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

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**3. The Water of Cleansing and the Spirit of Heart Transformation.**

**25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.**

**26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.**

**27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.**

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**

J. C. Ryle explains what it means to be born again: **"It is a thorough change of heart, will, and character. It is a resurrection. It is a new creation. It is a passing from death to life. It is the implanting in our dead hearts of a new principle from above.**

**7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'**

**8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**



**9 “How can this be?”**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has *caused* us to be born again."**

1 Peter 1:3

**“This means the new birth is taken out of our hands. It is not in our control. And so, it confronts us with our own helplessness and our absolute dependance on someone outside ourselves. This is unsettling. We are told that we won’t see the kingdom of God if we are not born again. And we are told that we can’t make ourselves born again.”**

**John Piper**

Note the progression:

**v.10 “do you not understand these things?”**



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**v.11 “but still you people do not accept our testimony.”**

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**v.10 “do you not understand these things?”**

**v.11 “but still you people do not accept our testimony.”**

**v.12 “and you do not believe”**

**14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."**



**The Righteous Shall Live By Faith**

Romans 1:17



