

## Conversation Starters

- How has this series affected your perspective on the various religions we've covered?
- Are there others questions you still have?

## Discuss

**In wrapping up our discussion on all of the major religions available to us, we're left with examining what it takes to accept Christianity. A major religious leader, Nicodemus, asked Jesus how to do that, to which Jesus responded with our need to be born again, not physically, but spiritually. And it wasn't about belonging to anything, behaving a certain way, or the mere belief in a body of knowledge. It is about relationship.**

*Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God...I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life" ([John 3:3,5-6 NLT](#))*

- Why was it significant that Nicodemus was the one asking this question to Jesus?
- Have you ever equated faith with belonging, behaving or believing?
- How does this passage change your perception of Christianity?

**This spiritual rebirth and relationship is only available because of God's great love for us that led to Him sacrificing His only Son, Jesus, for us. It's a free gift that can't be earned. It is grace.**

*"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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." ([John 3:16-17 NLT](#))*

- How does it feel knowing God loves you and went to the greatest length to be in a relationship with you?
- How is this different from other religions?
- What does this say about the character of God?

**God did this so that we would believe, not just with our mind, but with our entire inner being and inner world. This kind of believing would lead us to a relationship with God where we increasingly yield our life to Him, much like a marriage.**

- How does a comparison to marriage help you understand this relationship?
- How does it change how you would relate to God?
- How would this change your life?

## Next Steps

Grace is what makes Christianity stand out compared to all other religions. It's unique and quite amazing when we try to wrap our minds around it. And it's offered to us only through Jesus. If you still have questions, make it a priority to get them answered soon, don't delay. If you've decided Christianity is where you stand, [we would love to know](#). If you're already a Christian, evaluate your relationship with God - how is He shaping you on a daily basis?

If you've already placed your faith in God, one of the first asks Jesus had for every Christ follower is to go public for Him through [baptism](#). Is this your next step?

If you're still exploring, we'd love to help you as you explore all the resources available to you at Meck. Just us at our next [Starting Line](#) to learn more.

## Further Reflection

Read [John 3:1-7, 9-10, 16-17](#).

## Pray

God, you are incredible. Your love is greater than anything we can imagine. Your grace is truly amazing. We need you in so many ways. Thank you for Jesus and the relationship you offer us. Help us to live lives that are more and more like Jesus every day.