

John 3:1-15

CG Discussion Guide// Week of November 6, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Icebreaker: If you can chat with a currently living famous person, who would it be, and what would you talk about?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Harbor Network sister church to pray for: New Circle Church, Indianapolis, IN (Lead Pastor: Barry Rager)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Vv. 1-4 If you were in Nicodemus' shoes, how would you have approached Jesus? What would you ask Jesus?
- Vv. 3-8: How does Jesus' response to Nicodemus strike you? Why the need for analogies and seeming riddles (cf. Isaiah 6:9-10)?
- V. 7: What does it mean to be born again/born from above?
 - How do we know if we are born again/from above?
 - How much is human power and ability involved in being born again? What does that teach us about the Kingdom of God?
- How does Jesus describe His identity and work in this whole passage?
- If Jesus described what He discussed with Nicodemus as earthly things, what would the heavenly things be?
- Vv. 13-15 Why do you think Jesus referred to Numbers 21:8-9 to illustrate what He came to do?
 - Why would Jesus identify Himself with a symbol of death and judgment? What does that imply about His being "lifted up"?
- How did you come to be born again?

Abide Time: John 3:1-15

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in your reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- November 13: Baptism Sunday
- November 30: Members Meeting
- December 3: Membership Class
- December 4: Nine Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 11-Jan. 8: CG Break

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.