

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

10,000 Reasons, This is Amazing Grace, I Had a Song

WELCOME

A New Life. When is your spiritual birthday? How do you celebrate it?

WORD

JOHN 3:1-3

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ² this man came to Jesus by 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 answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

If there is a God, how do we know Him? If there is a heaven, how can we get there?

One night, a man named Nicodemus came to see Jesus (**vv. 1-2**). What can we learn from this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus?

COME TO JESUS

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a teacher of the law and a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling elite in Israel. The Pharisees were sincere people who wanted to please God, committed to memorizing Scripture and obeying God's Word. They dedicated their entire lives to studying, memorizing and following the laws of the Old Testament.

Nicodemus had power, position, wealth and influence, yet he still came to seek Jesus privately that night. Perhaps like many others, something was empty inside him and he was looking for something more. He may have had religion, but he neither had assurance of salvation nor peace in his heart.

The Pharisees had already been talking about Jesus, but only Nicodemus was willing to go see Him. He wanted to find out who Jesus really was.

BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus responded by saying, "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (**v. 3**). We may be as privileged as Nicodemus, religious, born to a Christian family or a regular church attendee, but this does not guarantee our way to heaven. One must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God.

To be born again is not choosing a religion, but having an experience. It is a spiritual rebirth, a new life from God, followed by radical change. It is never too late for one to change. Despite Nicodemus' age, his encounter with Jesus radically changed him.

To be born again is to be changed from the inside out. The Bible talks about being changed from the inside by the renewing of the Spirit of God in our life. The Spirit of God changes our heart (**Ezekiel 36:25-27**).

We were not saved by our works. God saved us by His mercy and renewing by the Holy Spirit (**Titus 3:5-6**). He gave us hope through Christ (**1 Peter 1:3**).

Being born again is not by human effort. It is through God's work. Just as we did not cause our birth, we also cannot make ourselves be born again. Until we know the gospel and understand what it means to be born again, we can never be sure of our salvation.

HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN

All of us long to enter the kingdom of God. But what must we do? How can we be born again? Oftentimes, the issue is not that we do not know how, but that we do not believe (**John 3:11-12**).

In the book of Numbers, God sent poisonous serpents to chastise the Israelites in the wilderness for their grumbling and unbelief, and many died. In desperation, the Israelites sought Moses. God instructed him to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole so that anyone who was bitten could look at it and live (**Numbers 21:5-9**).

WORD (cont'd)

By this, God taught the Israelites faith. The bronze snake itself did not heal them, but it was through the faith they had in God as they looked at it.

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. – John 3:14-15

Physical symptoms of snake bites include feeling weak, sick and thirsty, even leading to death. All of us have been bitten by the spiritual snake called sin. It makes us weak, sick and thirsty, leading to our death.

We know that something is wrong, but we just do not know what the solution is. In our desperation, we must look to Jesus in faith, who was lifted up on the cross for our sins (**John 12:32-33**), lifted up to be the King of kings and Lord of lords (**Acts 5:31-32**).

To be born again, we must admit that we are sinners, realize that we have a big problem, that we need help, turn to Jesus and believe that He is our only Savior.

The evidence of being born again is the Holy Spirit in us giving us new desires (**1 Peter 2:2**). Our life is not perfect now, but it is progressively growing. The old is making way for the new (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus changed his life. Nicodemus eventually understood and believed in Jesus and what He did. He had a costly offering at Jesus death, knowing that he only gave some (**John 19:38-42**), while Jesus gave His all.

Have you put your faith in Jesus? Have you looked at Him up on the cross dying for your sins, glorified above in heaven? How is your new life in Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Teacher!** What did Nicodemus say about Jesus according to **John 3:1-3**? Why did he call Jesus Rabbi?
- 2. Coming to Jesus.** What brought you to Jesus? What caused you to put your faith in Jesus?
- 3. Transformed.** What do people say about you as evidence that you are born again? Ask at least three people who knew you before and after coming to Christ.

WORKS

THE GREATEST LOVE

One of the most well-known verses, **John 3:16**, was addressed to Nicodemus. Share the gospel with someone using this verse guide this week:

God – The greatest lover

So Loved – The greatest degree

The World – The greatest number

That He Gave – The greatest act

His Only Begotten Son – The greatest gift

That Whosoever – The greatest invitation

Believeth – The greatest simplicity

In Him – The greatest Person

Should Not Perish – The greatest deliverance

But – The greatest difference

Have – The greatest security

Everlasting Life – The greatest possession

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends