



June 22, 2014 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 21: **YOU MUST BE BORN FROM ABOVE**

John 3:1-21

ABOUT NICODEMUS

- He was a Pharisee (v. 1)
- Set in his ways, very devout to obey rules – *religious*
- He was a “ruler of the Jews” (i.e. part of the Sanhedrin) (v. 1)
- He was “the teacher of Israel” (v. 10)
- Curious about Jesus and comes to him at night (v. 2)

TWO COMPETING VIEWS

1. **RELIGION:** “*I obey, therefore I’m accepted.*”
 2. **GOSPEL:** “*I’m accepted, therefore I obey.*”
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You must be **BORN FROM ABOVE**. (v. 1-13)

To be *"born again/from above"*
you simply turn and **LOOK TO JESUS**. (v. 14-21)
i.e. repent and believe/trust

1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK



Open Your Group in Prayer.

Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

1. **Read John 3:1-21** together.
2. Look back at Chapter 2 of John. What is the setting here? What has been going on during the days leading up to Nicodemus visiting Jesus?
3. Who is Nicodemus? Why did he come to Jesus? Why at night? Why was Jesus so direct with him?
4. As a Pharisee, Nicodemus would have believed that God only truly loved the Hebrew descendants of Abraham (i.e., the Jewish people). As a descendant of Abraham, then, he would have believed his birthright was an inheritance in God's Kingdom and was secured by his obedience. Therefore, Nicodemus (like all the Pharisees) would have been very passionate about obeying God's Word to the letter. He found his identity in his religious devotion and believed that the only way to salvation (to "*see the Kingdom of God*") was through hard fought obedience. *Based on what you know about Nicodemus, then, why was it so hard for him to accept or maybe even understand what Jesus was saying?*
5. Pastor Josh made the comment that **v. 3** can be translated "*unless one is born from above*." How does this compare to what John wrote about Jesus in **John 1:9-13**?
6. **Keep reading John 1:14-18.** What parallels do you see between **John 1:9-18** and what was said to Nicodemus?
7. In **John 3:8** what point is Jesus making by comparing spiritual birth to the wind?
8. **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** There are two families of people here that each receive a different family inheritance. What are the two families? And what are the two inheritances?
9. God's Word is clear that in order to move from being a "child of wrath" to a "child of God" you must be "*born of God*" (1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18.), i.e. "*born again/from above*". **Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and 1 Peter 1:3-5.** What are some of the things promised to those who are "*born again*" / "*born from above*"?
10. According to Scripture, how can a person be "*born again*"?
11. What was it that first aroused Nicodemus' interest in Jesus?
12. What was it that first aroused *your* interest in Jesus? Have you been born again?
13. What is your most prevalent view of God: As one who saves you? Or as one who condemns you? If you're in Christ, which is true?

For more, **Read Ezekiel 36:25-27, Deuteronomy 30:6, & Jeremiah 31:33.** How do these Old Testament passages influence and help us understand Jesus' words to Nicodemus?

Read Numbers 21:4-9. How does this Old Testament event point to Jesus?

6:7 family questions

Leading Your Kids to Christ

Principle 1: Relationship is your priority.

If we want the values we teach them to stick, we must apply heavy amounts of the glue called love. Children perceive parental instruction through emotional lenses. Those lenses are framed by the quality of the parent-child relationship.

Principle 2: The Bible is your handbook.

Teaching the Bible to our children is not an exercise in teaching religious ideas and ceremonies; it is teaching them how to live. If we believe the Bible is God's Word, we will not only teach our children that its contents should guide their lives, but we will also demonstrate it as a guide for our own lives.

Principle 3: Life is your classroom.

We, along with our children, are learning about God. This means discussing our growth in Christ in practical, everyday terms with them. It includes letting them see us apply our faith to our lives. Then they will get excited about joining in the process.

Principle 4: Your methods should target your child.

We need to understand what the important issues are for our children – in their eyes, not ours – and communicate on their level. When we can at least imagine walking in their shoes, our teaching will be more effective and certainly more relevant.

Taken from Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children by John Trent, Rick Osborne and Kurt Bruner, ©2000 Focus on the Family.

These simple questions are designed to help you live out the command in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach our kids and make God's Word a natural topic of conversation in our homes. Use them at the dinner table, in the car, or whoever you find your family together with a few moments to spare.

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF JUNE 22, 2014

During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.

Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.

NOTE: Due to the sensitive nature of some items on the Prayer Guide, we do not publish it online. Email the church office to sign up for the email prayer list: office@wawaseebible.com