

The Way to **Begin**

JOHN 3:1-18

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

RELIGION brings a second death (3:1-2)

religion doesn't work Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

two deaths Revelation 20:14; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27

↓ but THE SPIRIT offers a second birth, (3:3-8)

two births 1 Peter 1:3, 23; Ephesians 2:4-5; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 John 5:1

you can choose it, but you can't control it v. 8 John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 2:11-12; Numbers 21:4-9

↑ and what you do with JESUS determines your fate. (3:9-18)

rejection leads to death Romans 1:18-22; 2:5-6; Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 25:46

receiving leads to new birth & life v. 14-18 Revelation 2:11; Deuteronomy 30:19; John 11:20-27



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, “**Pray for...**” followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever’s going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

If you could pick one everyday task—like making coffee, driving to work, or walking the dog—where you'd love to hear God's voice giving you a little nudge or direction, which would it be and why?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Read John 3:1-21.** Then review your message notes. Looking back, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you this week? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? Pastor Josh suggested some possibilities. Do you agree?**
 - One he suggested was “restlessness”. How might religion leave us restless or insecure today?
 - Is there anything you'd look at in life that isn't “a religion” per se, but can be religious in its devotion or demands on people? Does it create a similar restlessness? If so, in what ways?
- Look up Romans 3:20-23 and Galatians 2:16.** How do these passages show that religion alone can't save us, and what do they point us toward instead?
 - What shifts (and/or what changes) when we move from rule-following to trusting Jesus?
- Jesus makes a big statement to Nicodemus in John 3:3.** Why do you think it was so confusing to him?
 - How would you describe what it means to be born again to someone?

WELCOME TO **WAWASEE!**

Enduring
Reach

We will be known throughout our region as a church that not only preaches but **lives** the truth of the biblical Gospel. **The people of our communities will know that they are loved by Jesus and loved by us**, and we will be known as a church with a passion for meeting the greatest spiritual needs of every person in our circle of influence.

ENDURING
COURAGE

In 2024-2025 the people of Wawasee Bible will take **3 faith-filled risks** in the areas of **sharing our faith, financial giving, and comfort**. By God's grace we will grow in courage and faith as we trust the Lord's lead in our lives and our church!

WORD FIND **IN THE WORD**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: John 3:5-8 (NlrV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁵ **Jesus answered**, "What I'm about to **tell** you is **true**. No one can **enter God's kingdom** without **being born** through **water** and the **Holy Spirit**. ⁶ **People give birth to people**. But the **Spirit gives birth to spirit**. ⁷ You should not **be surprised** when I say, 'You must all **be born again**.' ⁸ 'The wind **blows** where it **wants** to. You **hear** the **sound** it **makes**. But you **can't tell** where it **comes** from or where it is **going**. It is the **same** with **everyone** who is **born** through the **Spirit**."

E W C A N ' T B S J C S
K W A T E R C E U M O G
E E T A V V O V R A S V
B L O W S A M E P K C M
I T K E N T E R R E G T
R V G O D ' S Y I S I E
T W K J Y J P O S O V L
H Y I E U P I N E U E L
E A N S W E R E D N R W
A G G U G O I N G D T A
R A D S A P T J B O R N
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B N M ' B E I N G T E S

5. **Read Jesus's response in 3:5-10.** What's required to enter the Kingdom?
- Why does Jesus mention the Holy Spirit as part of this exchange? What clues do these verses give: **Titus 3:4-7; Romans 8:8-11; John 6:63**
 - Martin Luther, in his commentary on the Aposle's Creed, writes, "*I believe that I cannot by my OWN reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him. But the HOLY SPIRIT has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith...*" How does this help us understand what it means to be "born of the Spirit"?
6. Jesus tells Nicodemus he shouldn't have been surprised (v. 7) and that in fact he should have known these things (v. 10). First, why do you think he should have known?
- Now look up the following passages from the Old Testament. Nic was a teacher of God's word, and the Old Testament is what he would have regularly taught. After this exchange with Jesus, what light do you think it shed on things the next time Nicodemus went and read these passages?

Ezekiel 36:26-27 Jeremiah 24:7; 31:33-34
Isaiah 43:18-19; 44:3-5

Taking it Home & Prayer

7. This interaction between Nicodemus and Jesus gives us a glimpse into God drawing Nicodemus to himself. Before you wrap up, how did God work to draw you to himself? What's *your* story of being "born again"? — Maybe you're unsure. Have you sensed God drawing you? Talk about these things in your group. Share your stories with each other.

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



BONUS: *The Chosen* video series has an imaginative & powerful depiction of this scene between Jesus and Nicodemus. *After* you've completed your study time, **Read Psalm 2**, then watch it together. If you search for "Jesus and Nicodemus Chosen" on Google, you'll find a YouTube link. Or you can scan this QR code.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

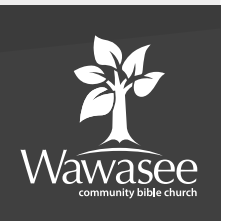
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THIS IS
THE WAY.

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