

Series *Sermon-based Growth Group Questions*

July 25, 2021

John 3:1-15

Introductory Discussion:

What insight from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Nicodemus comes at night?
2. Nicodemus believes Jesus to be of God, but he doesn't understand his teaching. Why do you think that Jesus answers by saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (verse 3).
3. Why must Nicodemus start over?
4. Jesus then says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (verse 5)
 - a. How does Nicodemus believe he will be justified before God?
5. What does it mean to be born of water?
6. What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?
 - a. John 17:3 says, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." What does that tell us about what it means to be born of the Spirit?
7. Jesus says, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit" (verse 8). Are there reasons why the wind blows the way it does?
 - a. If so, what is Jesus saying about the difference between the ways of the Spirit and the ways of the natural man?
8. How is the kingdom of God different from the kingdom of this world?
9. How is the serpent in the story (verse 14) a symbol of Jesus?
 - a. What does the story in verse 14 say about how one is saved?
 - b. How does this differ from what Nicodemus probably thinks?