

APPLICATION

- Reflect on how Jesus has transformed your life since you encountered Him. What is one way you could respond to what the Holy Spirit is doing in you this week?
- Looking to Jesus daily has a great impact on the choices we make. How does this play out in your life? Are there ways you can be more mindful in looking to Him daily?
- How can you allow Jesus' work in you to be brought to light and visible to others? Pray for the courage to live out your transformation openly.

PRAYER

- Thank God for your life-changing encounter with Jesus that gives you new life and hope through the Spirit.
- Ask God to deepen your faith, trusting Him fully for your salvation and sanctification.
- Pray for a heart that courageously reflects the transformation Jesus has begun in you, so others may see God's work and be drawn to Him.

The CROSS

Nicodemus

WEEK 1

WARM-UP

- What's something you look at or rely on daily? Why is it important to you?
- Have you ever revealed a secret that you were supposed to keep? What happened?
- Share about a time when you felt like you needed a fresh start. How were you able to move forward?

WORD *¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* **JOHN 3:1-3**

(Read also **JOHN 3:4-21**.)

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a prominent religious figure of high stature and teacher among the people. He was considered righteous by those around him. But one night, he visited Jesus in secret and sought His teaching. Nicodemus learned that he needed something from Jesus—something that transformed and renewed him. This was being born again in the spirit. Today, let's look at what we can learn from Nicodemus's encounter with Jesus.



1 | We need to be spiritually reborn to enter the kingdom of God.

³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." . . . ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." **JOHN 3:3, 5**

This is the Scripture where we get the term "born again." We are all born once from our mothers' wombs, but to enter God's kingdom, we need to be born of the Spirit. This is because we were all spiritually dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1–3) and will eventually lead to eternal death in hell unless we experience spiritual rebirth. The kingdom of heaven is spiritual in nature and only those who are spiritually alive can enter.

2 | We need to believe in Jesus to have eternal life.

¹⁴"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." **JOHN 3:14-15**

While talking to Nicodemus, Jesus foretold His own death. Like the bronze snake of Moses (Numbers 21:9), Jesus said, the Son of Man must be lifted up on a pole, and whoever looks to Him will be saved. This directly foreshadowed Jesus being lifted on the cross, and until today, whoever looks to

Him in faith is saved. The one who believes in Jesus has been born again and has eternal life. When did you begin believing? Would you say you look to Jesus daily? How certain are you that you have eternal life?

3 | We need to walk in the light so that others will see God's work in us.

"But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

JOHN 3:21

The transforming work of God is evident in the lives of those who come to the light of Jesus, put their faith in Him, and experience spiritual rebirth. John 3:8 likens one born of the Spirit to wind—although it cannot be seen, its presence can be felt. So it was with Nicodemus. He eventually moved from darkness (secret meetings at night) to light. Though we don't know exactly when he put his faith in Christ, he began to speak publicly in favor of Jesus—no more hiding. At a time when Jesus was attracting the wrong sort of attention from the authorities, Nicodemus took His side, risking revealing himself as a follower of Christ (John 7:45–52). His encounter with Jesus had caused this transformation. What are some visible changes in your life, when you experienced the new birth?
