

Book 10

John 3: The New Birth

Read John 3:1-3
and answer the following questions.

When is your birthday? Is it possible for you to be born a second time? Sounds like a stupid question, right? Jesus was asked this very same question by Nicodemus, a smart, older man. The record of their conversation is in John 3.

Did you know???

Nicodemus was part of the Pharisees (*fair-a-sees*), a religious group who were proud of knowing God's Words and obeying them very carefully. But for many, their hearts had never changed on the inside. They "obeyed" God to gain respect and attention from others.

Though Nicodemus was part of the Pharisees, he was different. He was willing to listen to Jesus. **Are you ready to listen to Jesus?**

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. Why do you think Nicodemus came at night?

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3. What did Nicodemus call Jesus, and why?
4. Where did Nicodemus believe Jesus came from? Why did he believe that (v.2)?
5. Jesus knew the question before Nicodemus even asked. What did Jesus say must happen before one could even see God's kingdom?

Did you know???

God's kingdom is like an earthly kingdom, in that it has a king who rules over certain people. God's kingdom is wherever His people let Him rule.

Recite John 3:3 from memory.

³Jesus answered and said to him,
"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again
he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Section 10:1 _____ Date _____

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Read John 3:3-7
and answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus say that interests Nicodemus? (v. 4)
2. Nicodemus wonders out loud whether it is even possible for a grown man to be “born again.” But Jesus explains his first answer more. What does He say? (vv. 5-6).
3. Jesus explains that there are two kinds of birth – one is physical (born of water), and the other is spiritual (of the Spirit). Which of these births are necessary for a man to be able to enter God’s kingdom? (v. 5).

Recite the following verses from memory.

1 John 5:4a

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

John 3:5

⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Section 10:2 _____ Date _____

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Read John 3:8-12
and answer the following questions.

1. It may sound confusing to us when Jesus talks about being re-born spiritually. What picture does Jesus use to help us understand? (v. 8)

Did you know???

We can’t see wind but we can hear or see the effects of it, like leaves moving in the trees. After a man is born again, we can’t see God working in His heart, but we can see the results!

2. Nicodemus is still having a hard time understanding what Jesus is teaching him. How do we know (v. 9)?
3. Jesus says some amazing things (v. 11). Was Nicodemus prepared to believe this important truth? _____

Recite John 3:8 from memory.

- ⁸ *“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

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Read the passages below
and answer the following questions.

John 3:13-15

Jesus mentions a story from the life of Moses. The Jews were traveling to their new home, and because they did not want to fight again the nation of Edom, they had to take a 100 mile detour – not a very pleasant thought when you're walking! They began to complain against Moses, and grew angry at God, too.

Numbers 21:4-9

1. Why did God punish the people of Israel?
2. How did God punish the people of Israel (21:6)?
3. What happened as a result of God's punishment (21:6)?
4. How did the people respond when they saw the terrible results of their sin (v. 7)? What did they ask Moses?

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5. What unusual thing did God tell Moses to do to offer help to the people (21:8)?
6. Did all of the people benefit from what Moses had done? Why or why not?

The snakes were God's tool to punish the disobedient people. However, when the people looked at the snake lifted up, that became a way of life for them.

In the same way, Jesus would have to be lifted up, but on a cross—not a pole. However, by being lifted up in that way, Jesus became THE way of life for every man.

Recite John 3:14-15 from memory.

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

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Read John 3:16-18
and answer the following questions.

Some of these verses are very familiar, right? Sometimes when something is very familiar, we can easily forget what it is teaching. Let's look at these verses very carefully to answer the questions below.

1. What are God's two actions, and how do they connect with each other? (v. 16).
2. What is the result of these two actions? (v. 16)

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3. We see God's action, and the result, but what does the middle of v. 16 teach?
4. Why did Jesus come into the world? (v. 17)
5. Jesus did not come into the world to _____, (v. 17) but He ends up having to do this. Tell why He does this, and describe one of the ways He does this (v. 18).

Recite John 3:18 from memory.

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Section 10:5 _____ Date _____

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Read John 3:19-21
and answer the following questions.

Jesus did not come to judge, but He does judge people for unbelief. Because of His judgment some people won't believe. John explains even further.

1. How do men under judgment respond to the Light Jesus brings?
2. Why do men not like the Light (v. 19)? What are they afraid the Light will do (v. 20)?
3. Not everyone rejects the Light. When men come to the Light, who is the one who prompts them to do so? (v. 21)

Recite John 3:19-21 from memory.

¹⁹ "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Section 10:6 _____ Date _____

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Recite the following
passages from memory.

John 3:18-21

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 3:36

³⁶ "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Section 10:7 _____ Date _____

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Read John 19:38-42
and answer the following questions.

Remember Nicodemus – the man who came to Jesus with questions? The Bible mentions him two other times. One time, when the other leaders want to arrest Jesus, Nicodemus sticks up for Him (John 7:45-53). The second time Nicodemus shows up at a most surprising time.

1. What has happened in the story of Jesus' life?
2. Two men who love Jesus are mentioned. One is Nicodemus, but who is the other?
3. What does the Bible tell us about this man?
4. What did Nicodemus want to do to show honor for Jesus right after the world had dishonored Jesus?
5. Jesus is alive today because He rose from the dead. How can you show honor for Jesus, even though most of the people around you may not?

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Recite the following verses from memory.

John 15:13-14

¹³ "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you."

John 12:50

⁵⁰ "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Section 10:8 _____ Date _____

Explain what John 3 teaches.

Prepare as if you were going to explain to a group at club what you have learned about Nicodemus and Jesus' answers to Nicodemus's questions. Do your best to explain the teaching of John 3.

Section 10:9 _____ Date _____