

WEEK 3: SPIRITUAL BIRTH

INTRODUCTION

Describe what comes to mind when you hear the term “spiritual journey”? (There is no right or wrong answer, simply describe the picture or thoughts that come to mind)

DISCOVER

This week read John 3:1-21

Though Nicodemus is a bit confused, and perhaps a bit scared of what people might think of him, does Nicodemus seem fairly sincere in his seeking to know more about Jesus in this conversation?

(Refer to **John 3:2**)

According to Jesus, what must take place in order for someone to see the Kingdom of God?

(Refer to **John 3:3**)

Why does this confuse Nicodemus?

(Refer to **John 3:4**)

CROSS REFERENCING FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING

Born Again; *How it is different than Maternal Birth*

Below are some verses in other parts of the Bible that will give us a more complete understanding of Spiritual birth (“born again”). Many of them use symbols and metaphors. Include in your responses some thoughts on what you think the symbols, metaphors and verses are intending to communicate.

List some ways that our new birth (2nd re-birth) is different than our first (maternal birth)...

...according to (**John 3:6**)?

...according to (**John 1:13**)?

...according to (**1 Peter 1:23-25** and **1 Corinthians 15:50**)?

Born Again; *What Actually Happens*

What actually takes place when someone is born again?

(Refer to **Ezekial 36:26-27** and **2 Corinthians 5:17**)

What important transaction takes place in Spiritual re-birth? (This is a tough question, start by listing the words that imply an action and description of an action [i.e. verbs, results of actions] words)?

(Refer to **Ephesians 1:13-14**)

What are the benefits of being a possession of God, someone who belongs to Him?

(**John 10:28-29** and **Romans 8:38**)

What does someone look like that has experienced a spiritual re-birth (born again)? What are the fruits (results, manifestations) of the new Spirit (God's Spirit) that indwells us?

(Refer to **Galatians 5:22**)

Born Again; *New Abilities and New Desires*

How does spiritual re-birth relate to *knowing* and *understanding* God? Why?

(Refer to **1 Cor 2:14** and **1 John 3:24**); (for more insight refer to **Romans 8:15-16**)

Born Again; *How?*

How is one born again (saved and given eternal life)?

(Refer to **John 3:16** and **John 1:12**)

Why did Jesus come into the world; to condemn or to save, to take life or to give life?

(Refer to **John 3:16** and **John 10:10**)

APPLICATION

Is spiritual re-birth (born again) an internal or external transaction; invisible or visible? Why?

(Refer to **John 3:8** and **Gal 5:22**)

In your own words, what does Jesus mean by born again? How would you briefly explain it to a 10 year old?

Do you remember a time in your walk with God, when you experienced a new desire, new ability, new attitude, or new perspective? What about old desires, habits, or attitudes that faded away? If so will you share them with us?

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER

I have two forces living in me; my sin nature and God's Spirit. They are in conflict with one another as they both fight for my mind-share, my thoughts, my time, my resources, my feeding. I cannot please both of them because they are mutually exclusive of one another. Which one do I suppress and which one do I feed? Have I made a committed choice to one or the other, or do I yield to what ever is easier? What does my lifestyle evidence?