



Discussion Questions Set #1

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:1-17)

This is a particularly well known passage as it contains the very famous verse, John 3:16. It also gives us a very unique look at Jesus, recording His interaction with an individual outside of a public setting. We see a more intimate Jesus here.

1. What do you note about the way Jesus engages in conversation with Nicodemus? Do you notice any unexpected personality factors in Jesus?
2. If you could be a fly on the wall to any of Christ’s conversations, which would you choose and why? What would this conversation show you about Jesus?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again”. (John 3:3)

“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit”. (John 3:5)

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

In sermon, it was suggested that the above verses both explain the same reality and both allude to a key Messianic prophecy found in Ezekiel 36:25-27.

	Introduction	Kingdom Comment	Birth Requirement
John 3:3	Very truly I tell you no one can see the kingdom of God born again
John 3:5	Very truly I tell you no one can enter the kingdom of God born of water and Spirit

1. When you think of the term “born again”, what thoughts, passages, or other ideas come to mind?
2. Why do you think that Nicodemus struggled so greatly to understand these two statements of Jesus?
3. Why is it important that entrance into the kingdom of God begins with a movement of God towards humanity? Why is God’s initiative in all of this important to acknowledge?
4. Why is it key to understand that entrance into the kingdom of God requires a fresh start/new birth in us? What does this mean for any religious gains apart from Christ?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony”. (John 3:11)

“No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him”. (John 3:13)

“You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God ... And this word is the good news that was preached to you”. (1 Peter 1:23)

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:4)

Jesus has “the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

The above Scriptures can be used to show the heavenly nature of Christ and His teachings.

1. Why is it significant that the Son of Man – Jesus Christ – has come from heaven as the Living Word and bearing words of life? Why might this have been a challenge to Nicodemus understanding of God or the Torah?
2. Discuss the imagery Jesus uses of the Son of Man being “lifted up” like the snake of Moses day (for reference this is found in Numbers 21). What is Jesus suggesting about Himself according to this well know OT reference?