



John 3:1-15 Small Group Questions

- What does John tell us about Nicodemus? What can we gather about him from this passage?
 - Why do you think that Nicodemus visited Jesus by night?
 - Ben noted that Nicodemus was a well-respected Pharisee. What is he trying to avoid or prevent by visiting Jesus by night?
 - What do you think Nicodemus wanted from Jesus? What made him want to visit Jesus in the first place?
 - What is the problem with visiting Jesus “by night”? What is the difference between visiting Jesus “by night” versus visiting Him in the light of day?
- How would you paraphrase what Jesus says to Nicodemus in verse 3?
 - Why does this catch Nicodemus off guard?
 - Ben mentioned that Nicodemus was educated, reasonable, and intellectual. How does Jesus’ response challenge Nicodemus’ education and intellect?
 - In what ways might people’s education and “reasonableness” actually prevent them from hearing the gospel?
 - What do you think is the proper role of reason and intellect in the Christian faith? How do we hold the reasonableness and intellectual truth of our belief with the understanding that

ultimately intellect and reason do not make a person born again?

- What is Jesus' response to Nicodemus in verses 5-8?
 - Ben discussed the fact that verse 5 means that those who are born again are already part of a future kingdom. What are some current benefits of being a part of the kingdom of God? What are some future benefits of being a part of the kingdom of God?
 - Ben mentioned that Jesus mentions "the wind" as an analogy: you can't see it, but you *can* see its effects. What effects do you see the Spirit having in those that are born again?
 - In your own life, where are you currently experiencing the effects of being born again? Where do you feel God actively growing you and changing you?
- In verses 9-14, Jesus responds to Nicodemus' astonishment. How would you summarize what He says?
 - Ben said that Jesus here answers the question: "how can I be born again?" His response to Nicodemus is that he must personally be born again. What does this mean, and why is Jesus so focused on personal, individual transformation?
 - What does it look like to participate in God's work in personally transforming us while still acknowledging that transformation is ultimately His work?
- At the end of this passage, Jesus mentions that just as Moses raised up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Someone read Numbers 21:4-9. What is this serpent, and what did it do?
 - Why does Jesus compare Himself to this serpent? What does this say about the power and importance of the cross?
 - If Jesus is the serpent in this story, who does that make us?

- Jesus spends this evening having a long spiritual conversation with Nicodemus, indicating that He is more interested in his spiritual state than anything else. At the end of the story, however, it doesn't seem like Nicodemus believes. When is a time that you have shared the gospel and been met with unbelief? How do we respond when we share the gospel and are met with rejection or apathy?