



CONNECTING

PEOPLE TO GOD | PEOPLE TO PEOPLE | PEOPLE TO OUTREACH

Discussion Questions: John 3:1-21

In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus explains that religious knowledge, morality, and good works cannot give a person spiritual life; everyone must be born again through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Using the bronze serpent from Numbers 21, Jesus reveals that He would be lifted up on the cross so that whoever looks to Him in faith will receive forgiveness and eternal life. God lovingly gave His Son to save the world, but every person must respond by either believing in Jesus and coming into the light or rejecting Him and remaining under condemnation.

1. If you could begin one area of your life completely over again, what would it be, and why?

The Necessity of the New Birth — John 3:1–8

2. Nicodemus was religious, educated, moral, and respected. Why were these things still insufficient to give him spiritual life?

3. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus, “You must be born again”?

4. What is the difference between improving someone’s outward behavior and God transforming that person from within?

5. Jesus compared the work of the Holy Spirit to the wind. What does this illustration teach us about the new birth?

It Always Comes Down to Faith — John 3:9–15

6. According to Ezekiel 36:25–27, what had God promised to do within His people?

7. Why do you think someone can possess extensive biblical or religious knowledge yet still fail to understand or receive the truth?

8. What similarities do you see between the bronze serpent in Numbers 21 and Jesus being lifted up on the cross?

9. The sermon identifies the Person, Provision, and Promise in verses 13–15. What does each reveal about Jesus and salvation?

Come to Jesus or Remain in Sin — John 3:16–21

10. What does John 3:16 reveal about God's love, God's gift, and our response?

11. What is the difference between saying that faith creates salvation and saying that faith receives salvation?

12. According to verse 18, why is a person who rejects Jesus “condemned already”?

13. Why do people sometimes prefer darkness rather than coming into the light of Christ?

Living the Passage

14. Are there any religious accomplishments, good works, or personal qualities you may be tempted to trust in rather than trusting completely in Jesus?

15. What would it look like for you to come more fully into the light this week—allowing Jesus to expose, forgive, or transform something in your life?

Gospel Reflection

Jesus did not tell Nicodemus to become more religious or try harder. He told him, “You must be born again.” Have you personally placed your faith in Jesus Christ and received the new life that only He can provide?

Weekly Challenge

Read John 3:1–21 again this week. Ask God to show you where you may be relying upon religious activity or personal goodness instead of fully trusting in Jesus.

Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **John 3:16 NKJV**