

Life Group Homework

JOHN 3:1-18 – BORN AGAIN

Getting Started:

Have you ever been part of a group where most of the people in the group fail to recognize the importance of something, or the danger of something, and you feel like you are the only one seeing it?

How do you feel when a majority of your peers don't see what you see, and you know that if you point it out you will be rejected?

Digging In:

In verse three Jesus says that one must be “born again” to see the kingdom of God. This expression, “born again,” has become common to us and may have lost some of its impact and mystery. Later in verses five and six Jesus unpacks this idea of rebirth by saying that it is being “*born of the Spirit.*” Discuss this concept of rebirth using the following questions:

1. Why would Jesus choose to use the earthly concept of “birth” and “being born” to illustrate what is happening when the Holy Spirit begins to transform us?
2. No one chooses to be born into this world through physical birth. Does that lack of choice in our birth take away our free will?

paraphrase the message of Jesus to Nicodemus in the simplest terms you can muster.

8. If Jesus and John the Baptist bore testimony of what they knew and saw and were rejected (*John 3:11-12*), should we expect that we will not be rejected when we bear testimony of what we know and see in Christ?

Living It Out:

Our faith often places us in situations where we are able to see and perceive things in Christ that the world cannot. When we try to explain the gospel, to warn of God's wrath, to encourage others toward righteousness, or to speak of our freedom in Christ, we are often misunderstood or dismissed outright. Sometimes we can be discouraged and think that it is our inability that keeps others from seeing Christ. What does this passage say to encourage us when we, like Nicodemus, are the only ones "seeing" the kingdom around us?

If Jesus and John did not wait to bear testimony to the truth because they felt someone would reject it, should we hold off in sharing the gospel until we are confident we won't be rejected?

NOTE TO LEADERS:

PLEASE DO NOT FEEL THAT YOU HAVE TO GET THROUGH ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS. FEEL FREE TO SELECT THOSE QUESTIONS THAT BEST FIT YOUR GROUP AND ONLY FOCUS ON THOSE. MAY GOD BLESS YOUR STUDY!