YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:1–8

Key Verse: 3:3

1. How is Nicodemus introduced? (1) What did it mean in those times to be a “Pharisee”? (10) A member of the Jewish ruling council? Why would a high-ranking person like Nicodemus ever come to someone like Jesus of Nazareth? Why at night? (2a)

2. How did Nicodemus begin the conversation? (2b) What was his conviction about Jesus, and on what basis? Why do you think he began like this?

3. Read verse 3. What was abrupt about Jesus’ reply? Why do you think he spoke to Nicodemus this way? (2:23–25) What does it mean to “see” God’s kingdom? (Lk17:20–21; Ro14:17; 1Pe1:3–4) How might Nicodemus the ruling council member have especially needed to see it? (1Pe1:24; 1Jn2:16–17)

4. Read verse 3 again. What does it really mean to be “born again”? (5; 1:12–13) Why must we be born again first, regardless of our age or religious or social background, before we can see God’s kingdom? (1Co2:13–14; 15:50)

5. How did Nicodemus interpret this, and why? (4) Why did Jesus suddenly use the word “enter”? (5) What does it mean to be born of “water” and “the Spirit”? (Mk1:3; Mt3:11) How does this happen in our lives personally? (Ac2:38)

6. How did Jesus try to help him? (6) Why should this not have been surprising to him? (7) How is being born of the Spirit like the wind? (8) Why did Nicodemus especially need to hear this? In light of the above study, how can we experience new birth?