



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Stand Alone

November 24

John 3:1-16

Things to Know

Jingle Jam

December 4 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Christmas Coffee House

December 6-7 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Christmas Night of Worship

December 15 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the entire sermon.*

Read

Read John 3: 1-16 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Sermon Recap

- The single greatest need of any human being is eternal life. We are all going to die, and we all need someone to give us life after death.
 - Our behavior does not determine our salvation; our birth does. You must be born again.
 - New birth only comes when sinners look to Christ; the one lifted high for their salvation.
 - The love of God drove him to extreme action. He gave his Son so that whoever believes in Christ will never die, but have eternal life.
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Discussion Questions

1. Nicodemus was a religious ruler, a Pharisee; why was it so hard for the religious people to accept the teachings of Christ? How does Christ's offer of new birth go against what Nicodemus thought about salvation?
 2. In your own words, what does it mean to be Born again? How can someone be born again?
 3. Someone read Numbers 21:6-9; How does this story point us to the cross?
 4. The sermon talked about how the love of God drove God to act; how does God's love drive us to act?
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Scripture

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You[d] must be born again.’ **8** The wind[e] blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you[f] do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[g] **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[h]

16 “For God so loved the world,[i] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. **7** So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and against you; intercede with the Lord, that He will remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded for the people. **8** Then the Lord said to Moses, “[j]Make a fiery *serpent*, and put it on a flag *pole*; and it shall come about,

that everyone who is bitten, and looks at it, will live.” **9** So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on the flag *pole*; and it came about, that if a serpent bit someone, and he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

The discussion about the necessity of “new birth” will bring many people to our hearts and minds who need Jesus, who need to be born again. Spend time in group praying for people who need to be born again by name! Then, thank God for giving you the gift of new birth.

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
 2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, [CLICK HERE.](#)

