

A person stands on a beach at sunset, their silhouette reflected in the calm water. The sky is a vibrant mix of orange, red, and purple. The title 'The Day I Met Jesus' is written in a white, elegant script across the middle of the image.

The Day I Met Jesus

LENT / 2020

focus.

Spend the next few minutes helping your group focus their attention on God.

sing | together

God So Loved by Hillsong Worship

read | together

Psalm 51:10-12

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

[10] Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

[11] Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

[12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit. (ESV)

read.

Read the passage for today together as a group. Then ask each individual to reread the passage and mark anything God illuminates.

John 3:1-17

[1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. [2] This man came to Jesus 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 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. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' [8] The wind 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 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. [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.

[16] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

discuss.

Lead your group through the following discussion questions. Help them thoughtfully reflect and respond to God's direction.

| 1 | There is much to our passage today. Did God illuminate anything as we read?

| 2 | Today we begin a series of discussions about ordinary people who met Jesus. Before we begin our discussion about Nicodemus, let's take a moment to share the story of the day when we met Jesus. If you feel comfortable, would you share your testimony?

| 3 | Nicodemus thought he had done everything necessary to be saved. He was Jewish, highly educated, morally impeccable, and religious to a degree that we probably can't fathom. Yet, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be "born again."

Have you been someone or known someone who believed that he or she could earn their way into right standing before God? What does our passage today have to say about that?

| 4 | Let's look at the two Old Testament passages Jesus points Nicodemus to in verse 5 and verse 14. Someone read Ezekiel 36:25-27. Now someone else read Numbers 21:4-9.

What do these two passages have in common?

Why would Jesus point Nicodemus to them in reference to being born again?

What do these two passages teach us about salvation?

| 5 | How can we winsomely help people recognize that they aren't moral or religious enough to earn their salvation? How can we help them see that they too need to be "born again."

pray.

Direct your attention now to listening prayer. Follow the prompts below as you guide your group to hear and obey God.

| 1 | Spend some time prayerfully recounting the day you met Jesus. Gratefully remember those who led you to a moment of clarity about your need for a Savior. Thank God for calling you to be His child.

| 2 | Ask God to give you the name and face of someone in your life who needs to be “born again.” Ask God to soften hearts and open doors to share the good news with that individual.