



***Life Group & Family
Discussion Guide***

“Born Again by the Spirit”

John 3:1-8

Last week we began a study of the Holy Spirit. Now that we’ve answered some general questions about the Holy Spirit, let’s dive into some of the things the Holy Spirit does in our lives.

In John 3, Jesus has an important conversation with an important man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus is not a bad man. He’s devoted to his religion, loyal to his fellow Pharisees, and very likely an exemplary human being. But Jesus tells him that he has absolutely no hope of seeing heaven. Why not? Because he has not been born again.

This week’s subject is the Holy Spirit’s role in regeneration. The Holy Spirit who “hovered over the waters” before creation (Genesis 1:2) is the same Holy Spirit who breathes spiritual life into dead hearts.



DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **Read John 3:1-8.** Tell everything you sense about Nicodemus from this passage.

2. What does it mean to be born again?

3. What does the expression “born of water” (vs. 5) mean?

4. Which comes first – regeneration or faith? Explain your answer.

5. **Read Ezekiel 37:1-14.** How does Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones teach the same thing about the human condition and the nature of the Spirit’s work as John 3 does?

6. What implications for evangelism do you see in this week’s passage?

7. **Read Titus 3:3-7.** How does Paul in this passage express the Holy Spirit’s role in regeneration?



DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:

1. John 3:1-8 gives you an excellent foundation for explaining how people get into heaven. Children often get the idea that the way to get into heaven is to be good, obey your parents, go to church, and the like. But just as a baby in the womb is helpless to bring himself into the world, so the sinner is unable to save himself. So what must someone do in order to be saved?
2. If you love God, who loved you first? (See 1 John 4:19)
3. The Holy Spirit is like the wind. You can't see the wind, but you know it exists because you see its effects. Can you think of other things that exist but are not visible? How do you know they are there?
4. Just as a person cannot remember the experience of birth, so many Christians have no idea when they were reborn by the Spirit. If you know when or how you became a Christian, share the story with your children. Ask if they'd like to share their stories of faith.
5. Do you know anyone like Nicodemus – someone who is a very “good person” but does not know the Lord? Spend some time praying for him or her this week.

SERMON NOTES