

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 15, 2015

This Week's Focus: To be born again means to be transferred from spiritual darkness into new life by the saving work of Jesus Christ.

This Week's Text: John 3:1-7

"His [Jesus'] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." **2 Peter 1:3-4**

Related Texts: Ezekiel 36:24-28; Luke 11:9-13

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Who is Nicodemus and what position did he have in Israel? What prompted his visit?
- John writes that Nicodemus visited Jesus at night. Why do you think he chose to visit Jesus under the cover of night? What might this detail tell us about Nicodemus' spiritual condition?
- What question is behind Nicodemus' statement in verse 2? What did he see in Jesus that prompted his question? Who was Nicodemus and all of Israel waiting on intently to arrive?
- How did Jesus answer Nicodemus' question in verse 3? Nicodemus saw Jesus' miraculous signs, but what was he missing? According to Jesus' statement, what was necessary for Nicodemus (and any person) to see and experience life in God's kingdom? When did you become aware of the transforming power of new birth in Jesus Christ in your life?
- Why was it difficult for Nicodemus, a moralistic and overtly religious person, to understand the need to be born again? What did he think would guarantee his appointment in the Kingdom of God?

- What does Jesus mean that you must be born again? How is anyone born again? Who is the source of your physical birth and your spiritual rebirth? In what other ineffective ways do we try to start over or create new beginnings?
- Explain what Jesus means in verse 5, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Is Jesus referring to two births or one? Does water symbolize baptism? Reference Ezekiel 36:24-27. Why should Nicodemus, of all people, have understood Jesus' answer?
- How do we practically live out the new life we have in Jesus Christ? As Christians, what should be our response when we feel the need to "start over" when we sin? How do we demonstrate to the world that we are born again, and "partakers of the divine nature"? Reference 2 Peter 1:4.