

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of November 22, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Spiritual life is not achieved by religious devotion or by sign, rather, spiritual rebirth is imparted by the Holy Spirit who demolishes the walls of unbelief in our hearts and constructs faith in Jesus Christ, who was crucified for the sins of the world.

**This Week's Text:** John 3:1-15

"The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in." **C.S. Lewis**

**Related Texts:** Numbers 21:4-9; Daniel 7:13-14

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- In verse 2, Nicodemus points to the signs that Jesus has performed to indicate that Jesus is a godly teacher. How does Jesus answer Nicodemus? Why are signs insufficient for salvation (seeing the kingdom of God)? Reference John 2:23-25.
- What do we know about Nicodemus? What does Jesus' answer in verse 3 indicate about Nicodemus' religious credentials?
- Jesus states in verse 5, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." What does this mean? Why does Jesus use the metaphor of water? Reference Ezekiel 36:24-28. What does the word "unless" imply?

- What does Jesus mean in verse 6? What have all people since Adam inherited? Reference Romans 5:12 and Ephesians 2:1. Explain how it is possible to be physically alive, but spiritually dead.
- What analogy does Jesus give regarding the evidence of spiritual life? Reference verse 8. Discuss how just as the wind can't be controlled, neither can the Holy Spirit. What manner of work does the Spirit perform in the life of a believer? How have you experienced transformation in the wake of the Holy Spirit's work in your life?
- Why do you think Nicodemus had difficulty understanding Jesus' teaching on rebirth? Do you remember a time that you had difficulty understanding and believing spiritual birth? What are Jesus' credentials for teaching on the subject of salvation? Reference verses 13-14. What is significant about Jesus applying the term "Son of Man" to himself? Reference Daniel 7:1-14.
- What story does Jesus reference in verses 14-15? Reference Numbers 21:4-9. How does this story and Jesus' teaching in John 3:1-15 answer the question, "How can anyone be born again?"
- How does this passage equip you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?