

Believe

JOHN

[MESSAGE](#)[STUDY GUIDE](#)[GROUP MATERIAL](#)[SONGS](#)

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 2:23-3:10

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 2:23-3:12

Sermon Summary:

The encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus is well known in light of the topic of “being born again.” Many people want Nicodemus to be an example of someone who is born again. However, we never have a clear indication that he believed or was born again. He is a person who is ambiguous when it comes to being a follower of Jesus. He is probably an example of people described in John 2:24-25. Based on how Jesus speaks to him in the plural “you” in 3:12, he is also a representative of his fellow Pharisees and Jewish rulers. Yet, at the same time he did come to Jesus apparently secretly. He is a difficult person to understand. He could be a warning to us that we should be clear and intentionally follow Jesus, believing in Him not merely because of signs but believing that we would have eternal life.

Discussion:

1. How can it be said that Nicodemus is an example of people who believed in signs and yet Jesus did not entrust himself to them (John 2:24-25)?
2. Why does Jesus not respond as we would expect to the first words of praise from Nicodemus?
3. The phrase "you must be born from above" has a double meaning in Greek. It can also be translated "you must be born anew or again." Nicodemus is a teacher and probably a scholar. Why might he not understand this double meaning?
4. The word "you" in verse 11: "...you do not receive our testimony" is plural as are all the times in verse 12. Who is Jesus referring to?
5. How do you understand the tone in which Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:11-12?
6. Read John 7:45-52 and 19:38-39. How should we understand Nicodemus' relationship with Jesus?
7. What might be a warning to us about the ambiguous nature of Nicodemus?

End with Prayer:

- Pray for the "fence sitters" that we know to come to faith and eternal life.
- Pray that our faith would keep increasing.