

100. Born into the Family (John 3)

Matthew, Mark, and Luke teach about Jesus, how? They tell stories about Jesus' life and teaching, His death and resurrection. John teaches differently. John doesn't talk about all the different things Jesus said and did. John picked out different subjects and showed what Jesus taught about those subjects. In John chapter 3 and 4, John shows Jesus teaching about baptism, both for Jews and for non-Jews.

John 3:1-2. There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was a member of the Jewish ruling council. At night, he came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know you are a teacher from God. Without God, no one can do miracles like you do.

- Who came to see Jesus?
- Why do you think he came to Jesus? (hint – remember, John 2:23 says "Now while He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs He was doing and believed in His name.")
- Why do people today come to Jesus? The same reason?

John 3:3. Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

- The signs led Nicodemus to Jesus. Now where did Jesus lead him?

John 3:4. Nicodemus asked, "When a man is old, how can he be born again? He can't go into Mom and get born a second time!"

- Did Nicodemus understand Jesus' answer?

John 3:5-8. Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born from water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. Don't be surprised when I tell you, "You must get born

again.” The wind blows where it wants. You hear the wind, but you don’t know where it is from or where it goes. That is the same for people who are born from the Spirit.”

- Jesus explained again, how is a person born again? What two things do you need?
- Some people believe in reincarnation. That means when you die, you are born again. In each life, you can become better and better. Is that what Jesus means, “born again?” What does Jesus think about reincarnation?
- When we are born again, Jesus compares us with wind. Huh? What does that mean?

John 3:11-17. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. We talk about what we know. We witness about what we saw, but you people still don’t believe us. I spoke to you about earthly things and you don’t believe. If I talk about heavenly things, how will you believe? No one has entered heaven except the one who comes from heaven, the Son of Man. In the desert Moses lifted up the snake, the same, the Son of Man will get lifted up. Then everyone who believes in Him can have eternal life. Because God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. Because God didn’t send His Son into the world to judge the world guilty. God sent His Son to save the world through the Son.”

- What does it mean, Jesus witnesses? What does a witness do?
- Jesus said, “I spoke to you about earthly things.” What earthly thing did Jesus talk about?
- Why is that an “earthly” thing? Why does God use things connected to earth?

- What heavenly things did Jesus talk about?
- What does God most want to do for the world?

John 3:18. Anyone who believes in Him (the Son) is not judged guilty. But whoever doesn't believe is already judged guilty because he doesn't believe in God's one and only Son.

- What is the good news in this verse?
- What is the law, the judgment in this verse?

John 3:19-21. This is the judgment. Light came into the world. But people loved darkness, not the light. Why? Because their actions were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light. They will not come into the light because they are afraid the light will show what their actions are. But whoever lives in the truth comes into the light. Then you can clearly see that their actions are done through God.

- Who is the Light?
- What do people naturally like best, light or darkness?
- Why?
- Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Pharisees were proud and thought they could follow the law very well. Remember what time Nicodemus came to visit Jesus? What do you think Jesus was telling Nicodemus?
- In verse 2, Nicodemus said Jesus did great things; God must be with Him. What did Jesus say in verse 21 about anyone who lives in the light?