GOD'S LOVE WAS REVEALED AMONG US IN THIS WAY

UNIT 20 • SESSION 1

THE SON **BRINGS ETERNAL LIFE**

MAIN POINT

Jesus brings new birth, eternal life, and salvation.

JOHN 3:1-8 • WE CAN BE BORN AGAIN THROUGH JESUS

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you
are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless
God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How
can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's
womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which
is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do
not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where
it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or
where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

JOHN 3:9-16 • WE CAN RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him,
“Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11**
Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what
we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly
things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the
Son of Man. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must
the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal
life. **16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:17-21 • WE CAN ESCAPE CONDEMNATION THROUGH JESUS

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in
order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him
is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because
he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the
judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness
rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does
wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works
should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that
it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

1. WE CAN BE BORN AGAIN THROUGH JESUS

READ **JOHN 3:1-8**

CAN A PERSON DO ENOUGH GOOD DEEDS TO BE SAVED? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR NEW BIRTH: US OR GOD? EXPLAIN.

2. WE CAN RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS

READ **JOHN 3:9-16**

HOW CAN WE GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

JESUS SAID THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

BIG **QUESTION**

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING BORN AGAIN?

Born sinners, we're separated from a sinless God. When we trust in Jesus, our sin is taken away, God's Holy Spirit comes into us, and we are born again as forever forgiven sons and daughters of God–we become the very thing God made us to be. We aren't born again through good works but through trust in the Son of God alone, who gives us the free gift and privilege of being children of God.

3. WE CAN ESCAPE CONDEMNATION THROUGH JESUS

READ **JOHN 3:17-21**

IN SENDING JESUS, GOD SHOWED THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO GIVE SINNERS WHAT WE DESERVE. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER?

WHAT DOES JESUS'S DEATH ON THE CROSS FOR SIN TELL US ABOUT GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN?

ESSENTIAL
DOCTRINE

REGENERATION

Regeneration is the miraculous transformation, or new birth, that takes place within an individual through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit when that person trusts in Jesus (see John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5). It is the work of God within a person's life that causes him or her to be born again, a work that human effort is unable to produce.

HEAD

HOW DOES THE COMING OF JESUS CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT GOD?

HEART

HOW SHOULD GOD'S LOVE FOR US CHANGE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR VALUE?

HANDS

IF WE'RE BORN AGAIN SOLELY BY TRUSTING IN JESUS, HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE FOR HIM EACH DAY?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught that new birth, not religious activity, is how a person enters the kingdom of God and receives eternal life. New birth is given from the Father through faith in the Son as a work of the Spirit. Because of God's love, we are no longer condemned by our sin, but we have been given eternal life in Christ.

DAILY **DEVOTIONS**

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING

What does this passage say?

What did this passage mean to its original audience?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage tell us about man?

What does this passage demand of me?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 01

JOHN **3:1-8**

Nicodemus had nothing to do with his own physical birth. We're born into a family because of our parents, not our own works. Similarly, we can only be born again into God's family through God's works, not our own. When we put our trust in the Son of God, we are spiritually transferred into His family and spiritually transformed into sons and daughters of God.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER NEW BIRTH IS A GIFT GIVEN AND NOT A PRIZE TO BE EARNED?

HOW DOES BEING IN GOD'S FAMILY SHAPE OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

Pray: Thank the Father that He gave His Son to offer you a new birth into His forever family. Ask Him to help you live like His child today.

DAY 02

JOHN **3:9-16**

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO A GOD WHO'S SO PASSIONATE ABOUT KNOWING US?

WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT GOD'S LOVE?

In God is life—physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual life. In God, we are fully alive in every way. We become everything we were made to be by knowing and glorifying God. We know instinctively that death is not our friend but our enemy. We're made to live forever knowing God. God didn't make us to be eternally separated from Him (to perish). God loves us and wants us to know Him forever. This is why He sent Jesus for us.

Pray: Ask God to help you know Him and serve Him more today. Ask Him to help you share His love with others.

DAY 03

JOHN **3:17-21**

By giving us spiritual new birth and eternal life with God, Jesus saves us from eternal separation from God. Jesus wasn't sent into the world to condemn the world. The word "condemn" has to do with giving a criminal the sentence he or she deserves. In other words, Jesus didn't come to give sinners what we deserve: eternal separation from God. Jesus came to give us what we don't deserve: forgiveness of sins and salvation from eternal separation from God.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN RESPONSE TO FEELING CONDEMNED (FEELING LIKE WE DON'T BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY)?

HOW CAN WE BE MORE THANKFUL FOR GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE?

Pray: Declare in faith that you're in God's family because He gave you the right. Thank Him for His love for you and His grace toward you.

DAY 04

1 JOHN **3:1-3**

IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE EXPERIENCE PEACE TODAY BECAUSE OF OUR HOPE IN OUR FUTURE WITH GOD?

WHAT'S ONE WAY YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE PURIFIED IN THIS SEASON?

The value of something is often determined by the price one is willing to pay for it. God sent His Son Jesus—the highest price imaginable—in order to give us eternal life with Him. Since that's the way God feels about our value, we need to remind ourselves of our value every day! We are children of God. Knowing our value will help us to live up to the call God has on our lives continually.

Pray: Ask God to give you peace today because of your certain future in Him. Ask His Holy Spirit to purify anything from your life not befitting of a child of God.

DAY 05

EPHESIANS **3:14-21**

When we truly know the depths of God's love for us and for others, we're far less likely to live below our calling in Christ. High self-worth and clear purpose result from knowing who God says we are. God says we are loved, valued, and called to know Him and make Him known. May we not live for lesser purposes today. May we not give ourselves to lesser loves. We're called to join God in rescuing people from death and bringing them into loving life in Christ.

WHY SHOULD WE SEEK TO LOVE GOD MORE THAN ANYTHING OR ANYONE ELSE?

WHAT PLANS DOES GOD HAVE FOR YOU IN THIS SEASON THAT YOU NEED TO PURSUE?

Pray: Use Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 to guide you as you pray these words for yourself.