

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Share a story with the group about a time when you had to “shed your skin” in order to step into a new opportunity. What did you learn?

Recall the three steps to being born again from this weekend’s message before reading the passages below:

1. Make space and time for God (God encounter)
2. Let go of the way you used to do things (disturbed and confused)
3. Move into the new place of increased capacity (when opportunity knocks, go!)

Read John 3:1-5. What steps to being born again can you identify in this passage? What risks might Nicodemus need to take in order to be born again?

Nicodemus clearly made space and time to have an encounter with Jesus—and it was extremely risky for him to do so. The other Jewish leaders were not fond of Jesus and would not have been happy to find out that Nicodemus was meeting with him in secret. Nicodemus also seems disturbed and confused when Jesus tells him that he must be born again. Being “born again” has the connotation of starting over and learning things anew. That would be especially challenging for an established leader in the religious community.

Read John 7:40-52 and John 19:38-42. What conclusions can you draw about Nicodemus based on his actions in these passages?

We can see that the encounter Nicodemus had with Jesus greatly impacted him. The fact that he was willing to speak up for Jesus in John 7:40-52 demonstrates that he was beginning to see things differently than he had before. After Jesus died, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea gave him a burial fit for a king—this may give us a hint at the conclusions Nicodemus had drawn about Jesus by this point.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Reflect on your journey with Jesus to this point. How many “born again, again” moments have you had? What would your life be like if you hadn’t taken the risk to let go and step out in these times?

When was the last time you felt disturbed and confused about something God was asking you to do?

When God prompts us to take our next step of faith, he usually calls us to something that we have a hard time understanding. If we are in a place of constant comfort in our relationship with God, chances are we haven’t been listening to him that well!



What fears typically keep you from saying “yes” when opportunity knocks?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read Acts 11: 1-18. What can you learn from Peter’s example in this passage? How will you apply what you have learned this week?

Peter was disturbed and confused, but he was obedient anyway. In this story, Peter shows us that God is not afraid to call us into places that make us uncomfortable and challenge our assumptions and biases! Many of us want to wait until we feel certain about the next step in our faith journey, but Peter reminds us that God designed us to learn along the way.

Which of the steps to being born again do you struggle with the most? Which step is the easiest for you to take? Why is that?

Remind the group of the three steps below and then pay close attention to how each member answers the question. You may find that your entire group struggles with the same step, or you may see that your group members give varied answers. Use the knowledge you gain during this time to better pray for and encourage the members of your group.

1. Make space and time for God (God encounter)
2. Let go of the way you used to do things (disturbed and confused)
3. Move into the new place of increased capacity (when opportunity knocks, go!)

Who are you going to share your new knowledge with this week?

