

26 June

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 7

 Let's hear your story

1. How do we know Nicodemus was an influential leader according to John 3:1? **(He was a Pharisee and member of Jewish ruling council.)**
2. How do we know Nicodemus was wealthy? **(See John 19:38 – 40.)**
3. How did Nicodemus recognise Jesus as a teacher sent from God? **(v.3; For no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.)**
4. How did Jesus respond in v.3? **(Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. How do you get born again? **(The Holy Spirit does a miracle in you, He comes and dwell within you, and causes you to be a new creation in Christ.)**
6. What title does Jesus use to refer to Himself in v.13? **(Son of man.)**
7. When was Jesus "lifted up" in v.14? **(At His crucifixion in John 19.)**
8. How does God feel towards you according to v.16? **(God loves you.)**
9. What does v.19 tell us about people? **(Light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light.)**

 Let's apply this

10. John 3:3; Jesus answered Nicodemus; "truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Jesus had to explain to Nicodemus the following; the Person and work of Holy Spirit, and that Jesus is God (Son of man), and that God loves him.

- Do you know that Jesus loves you?
- Are you born again?
- Have you been baptised with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:8)?
- God's desire for you is to know Jesus Christ, and make Him known.
- Speak to your life group leader to help you with your decisions.

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 7 (Jesus and Nicodemus)

Read: John 3:1 – 21

v.1; The pharisees were the religious elite in Israel, committed to the law, scripture, feasts, Sabbaths and the tithe. Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish Ruling Council, the Sanhedrin. This was 70 men that were considered the most holy, righteous, devoted and zealous men in the entire nation of Israel. They functioned as the Supreme Court over the nation.

v.2; He calls Jesus; "Rabbi," which means he sees Jesus as a teacher. Nicodemus says, "God is with you." I know God is with you. I see the power of God in your teaching. Things happen. Lives change. God shows up when you speak.

v.3; Jesus' answer is the kingdom of God. And what Jesus is talking about here is that to see the kingdom of God, you must be born again and then you will understand that God rules and reigns as King over everything.

v.4 – 5; If you want to see the kingdom of God, you must be born twice. The first time is a natural or physical birth. It's a birth of water. A mother's water breaks and out comes her baby; born into this world through water. And as you are born, physically alive, you are also born spiritually dead, see **Psalms 51**.

You must be born again. You must have that second birth. The second birth is a miracle. It's something that the Spirit of God does in you. It is when you are physically and spiritually alive. It is a miracle. And the Spirit of God come to dwell within you. And then He caused you to be a new creation in Christ and began to change your desires and identity and your destiny.

v.6 – 7; Jesus says, don't be surprised that I'm telling you that the way God works with people is that He does a miracle in them, and changes them to be new people.

v.8 – 10; Holy Spirit works in people so that they know their King and His kingdom.

v.11 – 13; Jesus says, I'm God, from heaven and I've come down to tell you what it is like. This is who God is, and what God does. This is how you enter God's Kingdom.

v.14 – 15; The Gospel does two things for us. Jesus Christ, pays the penalty for our sins so that we could be forgiven of the sins that we have committed. Secondly, Jesus heals us from the sins that have been committed against us.

v.16 – 21; Nicodemus, the great teacher in Israel did not know that God loved him. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light.