



## Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

### **Believe and Be Saved** (John 3:1-21)

In John 3 we have the heart of the good news of Jesus.

Take some time to reflect on these questions relating to the sermon:

- What is your experience of being born again? What difference has it made in your life?
- John writes that *whoever* believes in Jesus shall have eternal life. What barriers have we put up which may prevent this happening? Are you willing to accept into the Christian family ANYONE who accepts Jesus?
- We have the assurance of eternal life but we read whoever does not believe is condemned. How can that be used to motivate us to share the good news of Jesus?

Some further questions to consider:

- Nicodemus was beginning to understand who Jesus was but wanted to understand more. What are you doing to help others understand the good news of Jesus? What sort of answers would you give? Jesus spoke about being born again. Would you use those terms and if not how would you explain what a person needs to do?
- Nicodemus came at night because of his position in the Jewish ruling Council. How can we provide opportunities for people to explore the Good News at times and in situations which suit them rather than us?
- Nicodemus states in v2: “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Why wasn’t this sufficient to be a declaration of a belief in Jesus as God’s Son?
- In verse 5 Jesus states that to enter the kingdom of God a person needs to be born of water and the Spirit? What did Jesus mean by this and how has this been manifested in your life?
- V19-20 states that people love darkness instead of light. What are the areas in your life where you like darkness rather than light? Ask God to help you turn these into areas of light.

### **Deeper Study Questions**

- Jesus states in v12 that he has been talking of earthly things and if Nicodemus does not understand these how will he understand heavenly things. What do you think are the heavenly things Jesus could not talk about to Nicodemus?
- John writes in v16 that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life. Read Mark 10:17-31. The rich young ruler wanted to inherit eternal life. Why did Jesus reject him and why is it not contradicting John 3:16?
- How does v16 affect our attitudes to people who ‘do not fit’ coming to Christ, for example, drug users, the homeless, those identifying as LGBTQ+, migrants, those with mental health problems, those with extreme political views? To what extent do we accept them as they are or do we impose our standards on them? What is Christ’s response to these people?
- Read John 3:18-21 again. Why does it say in v18 that non-believers already stand condemned? What constitutes darkness and what constitutes light?



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The Pharisees misread the Old Testament and did not pick up the prophecies of Christ's coming. Select a few of these passages which foretell his coming:

Deuteronomy 18 v 15

Psalm 2

Psalm 22

Psalm 69 v21

Psalm 110 v 1

Psalm 118 v22

Psalm 132 v 11

Isaiah 2 v 1 to 5

Isaiah 9 v 6 and 7

Isaiah 11 v 1 to 5

Isaiah 28 v 16 to 18

Isaiah 42 v 1 to 4

Isaiah 53

Isaiah 59 v 16

Isaiah 61

Isaiah 63 v 1 to 6

Jeremiah 23 v 5 and 6

Daniel 9 v 25

Micah 5 v 2 and 4

Haggai 2 v 6 to 9

Zechariah 3 v 8 and 9

Zechariah 9 v 9 and 10

Zechariah 12 v 10 and 11

Malachi 3 v 1 to 4