

## John 3:1-21 (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

## COME & SEE (5 Sessions in John): Leader's Notes

### Read & Discuss:

- Read the passage out loud.
- Give a few minutes of quiet for each person to read the story again on their own and note things that are interesting or confusing.
- Ask open ended questions that keep the conversation focused on the passage.
  - In your own words, how would you describe each of the characters?
  - How does Jesus interact with the people in this story?
  - What do you find surprising or troubling?
  - What does the story communicate about God?
- Let the scripture speak for itself and don't worry about coming to agreement or answering all your friends' questions.

### Testify & Invite:

- Share a story of how Jesus has been real to you. To prepare, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what part of your story your friend needs to hear. Consider:
  - What character in the passage do you identify with? Why?
  - How has Jesus touched your life and brought healing?
  - How has Jesus answered your questions or resolved your doubts?
  - Do you relate to my story or to one of the characters in the passage?
- Ask them to pick a need, struggle, or situation in their life that they can invite Jesus to interact with, e.g. What's an area of life where you have "run out of wine"?
- What do you think Jesus might want you to do?

### Pray & Watch:

- I realize it might be new to you to talk to Jesus directly, but let's ask him to interact with your life as he did in the Scripture story. Give your friend the option to pray out loud or silently.
- Finish by praying out loud in a natural way for the areas shared.
- Trust God to get involved in your friend's life. Remember God's role and our role in evangelism:
  - We testify and make invitations.
  - Jesus reveals himself as the one who knows them and offers his living water.
  - In a few days, ask them how Jesus responded to your prayers.
- As you see God speaking to your friend, take a risk to invite them to become a follower of Jesus, e.g. It looks like Jesus is pursuing you. Would you like to say yes to following him?