

DISCOVERING LIFE TOGETHER SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
PART TWO: NEED FOR JESUS – JOHN 3:1-21

NOTES:

1. Knowing God through REGENERATION not religion
2. Regeneration happens by BELIEF in Jesus

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: What brands transcend people, cultures, languages (no matter where you are, they are there!) Why do you think John 3:16 might be the most famous Bible verse of all? You may have seen it and heard it, but do you really know it? Discuss.

The Basics: Read John 3:1-21. What stands out to you and why? Who is Nicodemus and why does he approach Jesus at night? How could Nicodemus be described as the best of humanity?

Quick Fire Round John 3:1-21

- Read John 3:1-8 and Ezekiel 36:25-27. Summarize the opening dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus. In order to know God, why must a person be born of water AND the Spirit? What does this mean to you?
- Read John 3:9-15 and Numbers 21:4-9. Why did Jesus use an Old Testament illustration to explain His purpose as the Son of Man? How has faith (not religion, works, tradition) always been foundational to knowing God?
- Read John 3:16-17. Discuss the following words in detail – *God, loved, world, gave, Son, whoever, believes, perish, life*. Do you see these words differently now? Discuss.
- Read John 3:18-21. Why does Jesus conclude His conversation with Nicodemus this way? Why is obedience not a requirement *for* a saving faith but *a sign* of faith and regeneration?

The challenge: Do you see Nicodemus in yourself? How can religion make the simple complex? Why is regeneration or rebirth foundational to knowing God rather than religion? What personal decisions might God be calling you to make?

Memorize John 3:16-17

Prayer: Father, thank you that you made a way for me to know you through Jesus. I choose to trust you by faith. Help me to walk with you obediently. Amen.

Resources: <https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/train-and-grow/bible-studies/no-one-understands-jesus-study.pdf>; Bible Speaks Today – The Message of John, Bruce Milne; Exploring the Gospels.