

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 28

Born from Above

Our Scripture: John 3:1-21

Ice Breaker

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a “ruler of the Jews.” If you could have any title in the world what would it be?

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Nicodemus is referred to as, Pharisee, “a ruler of the Jews.” He was a member of the “Sanhedrin,” the official Jewish court. Read John 11:45-50. What do you imagine to be the role of this council?
2. Read John 7:32-36 and 45-52. Why do you think Nicodemus spoke up on Jesus’ behalf before the Sanhedrin?
3. Read John 19:38-42. What impact do you think Nicodemus’ nocturnal discussion with Jesus had upon him?

Media Mix -Peculiar Treasure: Frederick Buechner

<http://www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2016/5/18/nicodemus>

Bonus idea: Read “Born Again,” by Charles Colson, white house council to President Nixon. A beautiful book, old, but eerily relevant.

Bringing It Home

1. Scholars have struggled to properly translate John 3:3. Which of these translations do you like the best? Which the least? Why?

1. “Born anew”
2. “Born from above”
3. “Born again”

2. Lutheran historian Martin Marty, author of 50 books, was once asked by a Christian fundamentalist TV host when he was born again. He replied, “this morning.” The TV host was mystified that such a renowned historian of the church should have only finally found Christ that morning.

- What do you think Martin Marty meant by that response?
- How would you describe your experience as it relates to being “born anew,” “born from above,” or “born again?”

Prayer Time

The group HOST will lead the group in prayer.

Housekeeping

1. Welcome everyone to week 2 of Winter Growth Groups. Do introductions of any new people. Remind them that this is week 2 of a 3- week trial period at which point anyone can opt out guilt free OR covenant for the remainder of this 8 week series.
2. Did you hear the sermon this week? It is available online at our website only as a podcast (not a video). We think this will make it easier to access. People could listen on their commute, for example. Let us know what you think.
3. Who is bringing the refreshments next time?
4. Who do you know that you could invite to your group? Please invite people if there are less than 14 members in your group. Especially remember to invite those who are not part of Atonement.