

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **June 29, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The question of understanding."
Please read the sermon passage (John 3:1-15) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (John 3:1-15)

Sermon Outline:

1. **You must have new life** (vv. 1-3)
 - a. New life does not come from new religion.
 - b. Nicodemus had religion and the Scriptures, but he did not have the Son.
 - c. He could have and should have understood "new birth" from the Old Testament.
2. **New life comes from God by the Holy Spirit** (vv. 4-8)
 - a. "Born of water" = being cleansed by Jesus (Ezekiel 36:24-25) because God is holy.
 - b. "Born of the Spirit" = having a completely new work of life by Jesus (Ezekiel 36:26-27) because man is dead spiritually (Ephesians 2:1).
 - c. The Spirit is completely free to give new life as he desires (3:8).
3. **New life depends on God's Son, who is Jesus Christ** (vv. 9-15)
 - a. Jesus came down to us from heaven (he is God); he is the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:14).
 - b. Jesus paid for the sins of those who trust him as he was "lifted up" to die on a cross in our place.
 - c. How do I know I have received the new birth? If (and only if) I believe Jesus alone.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The longer we are Christians, the easier it becomes to trust our own sensibilities, rules and human "goodness." Nicodemus had religion and the Scriptures, but he did not have Jesus. How do you know that you are trusting Jesus (not your religion)?
2. Based on #1, above: Why is it a good thing to regularly re-examine our hearts before the God to make certain that we are trusting Jesus alone?
3. Based on #2, above: God, in the Holy Spirit, is completely free to bring life as he desires. Discuss (John 3:8).
4. Based on #3, above: John wants us to see that Jesus is more than Nicodemus thinks (John 3:2). Jesus is absolutely not simply a "good teacher, sent from God." Indeed, he is the "Lamb of God" (John 1:29), the "Son of God" (John 1:49), and the entire Gospel of John was written to prove that Jesus is God (John 20:30-31). When you have gospel conversations with your friends, do they understand the absolute uniqueness of Jesus? What are some effective ways you have communicated this to your friends?