

John 3 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Read John 3:13-15. What was the basis of Jesus' authority (v13) and what was the result of believing Him (v15)? What story from Numbers 21 did this compare to?

5. In 3:16-17 what did God do (v16, 17) and why did He do it (v16, 17)? What happens when we believe in Jesus (v16, 17)? Describe this faith.

6. Based on 3:18-21 into what spiritual condition is everyone born (v18) and why (v18, 19-20)? What changes this condition (v18) and what is the evidence (v21)?

7. Looking at 3:22-26 who was now baptizing (v22, 23)? What concerns did the disciples of John have about this (v24-26)?

8. From 3:27-30 how did John answer his disciples (v27) and what did this mean? How did John view his role (v28, 30) and what effect did this have on him (v29)?

9. In 3:31-34 what truth does John present (v31-32)? How can one's "earth" ceiling be raised to heaven (v33-34)? What is the human part and the divine part?

10. From 3:35-36 describe the Father's relationship to His Son (v35). What happens to those who believe in the Son (v36) and to those who don't (v36)?

11. Recap the benefits from John 3 of being born again from above—how it affects our overall life, what its results are, and how it changes our long-term security.

Scripture to Remember

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

John 3:17 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Loving My Testimony (1 John 5:5-13)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Tell the group one of your favorite "family" stories. What is so engaging about these stories?
2. Read 1 John 5:4-13. Define an "overcomer" (v4-5). How do you know your faith is genuine?
3. Talk about some of the ways that the lives of those who follow Jesus are different from the world's. Then, share about when that began to happen in your life.
4. What are some of the reasons that people have a difficult time telling others about their story in Christ? Brainstorm some ways that we can begin to do this.
5. Discuss how to tell someone about who Jesus is (water) and what He did (atonement, appeasement, acceptance). How would you help someone know Him?
6. How does the Spirit bear witness to Jesus in your life—to Him as the Truth, to His presence in your life, and by using you to point others to Him?
7. The life of a born-again follower of Jesus is eternal. How secure do you feel about having such a relationship? How can you grow in your confidence about this?



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Raising the Ceiling

John 3



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Raising the ceiling of a house gives a whole new “feel” to life in the home. This also occurs when one’s spiritual ceiling is raised. Life takes on a new dimension, making things once considered impossible now attainable. The study this week in John 3 explores this as it addresses the familiar spiritual topic of “born again”. The Jewish leader, Nicodemus, having observed Jesus’ miracles, wanted to know more about His identity. Jesus told him that he couldn’t even see the kingdom of God unless he was born again. His “ceiling” was too low; the realities of Jesus’ kingdom could only be seen with eyes opened by the Spirit. Those born again, or from above, have spiritual life, just as one born from the earth only has earthly life. Jesus attributed Nicodemus’ lack of under-

standing to his refusal to receive His witness concerning heavenly truth. He was from heaven, so He could speak from first-hand experience. Nicodemus, though, didn’t even believe earthly things—the prophecies of John concerning Him—so it was impossible for him to receive heavenly revelation. Another result of the second birth was salvation. Jesus, who would be lifted up on the cross like Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, was the source of this. Those who believed in Him would receive eternal life, which was the Father’s purpose in sending Jesus to the world. God’s love motivated Him to give His Son to the world, but those who rejected Him would perish because they were already under God’s judgment. They were judged because they loved the darkness which covered the

evil they did. Finally, the new birth meant security because it connected them to the Father’s love for His Son. John the Baptist understood that his value was his relationship to the Son, so he promoted Jesus and rejoiced as He increased. Since Jesus is from above, He is above all, and His witness which comes from the Father must be received. The Father has given all things into the hands of His Son, thus only those who receive Him have eternal security. So, in many ways the second birth raises the spiritual ceiling for those who believe.

Study Questions for John 3

(for answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read John 3:1-3. Identify who came to Jesus and what he was like (v1). Why do you think he came at night? What did he admit (v2) and how did Jesus respond (v3)? Explain His approach and answer.</p>	
<p>2. From 3:4-8 what was Nicodemus’ question (v4) and how did Jesus answer it (v5-7, 8)? What two births (v5) and what two realities (v6) does Jesus present here?</p>	
<p>3. Using 3:9-12 how did Nicodemus respond (v9) and what was the meaning of Jesus’ question (v10)? What did He declare to Nicodemus (v11) and what result would that have (v12)?</p>	

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