

Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 13th June 2021

A CAST OF *Characters*

COMMON PEOPLE in the HANDS of AN UNCOMMON GOD



WORSHIP God **GROW** Together **SERVE** Others

Week 8 – NICODEMUS
(When Good Isn't Good Enough)
John 3:1-17

Preparation <https://youtu.be/Zqsc7bUzl88>

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/luczKwDgpcE>
2. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Reading:

John 3:1-17 New International Version - UK

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

³ 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

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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Questions for discussion

Reflect and share your experiences together using the following questions.

Take time at the end to ask what is God teaching you this week to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

1. Is there anything from the readings or message this week that stood out to you?
2. Nicodemus lived in a worldview of good efforts, sincere gestures, and hard work. He lived with the Philosophy that said, "**Give God your best**". Would most religious people adhere to that philosophy? What's good about it? And what's wrong with it?
3. Read John 3:16 slowly. What part of the verse is the most striking for you? And why?
4. **Whoever believes in him shall not perish...**
Is belief in Christ easy for you or difficult? Why?
5. How would you describe what being **BORN AGAIN** means to someone who is not a Christian? And how does it happen?
6. As a Christian how important is it that you do good actions? And Why?

Prayer

Take some time to share prayer needs, pray for one another, for the church and for our local community before finishing with the words of the grace.