

Redemptive Love

Invitations

Sunday, February 25th, 2023

John 3: 1-10

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He 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.” ³Jesus 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!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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?”

1. Born of the Spirit.

2. Respond to the Truth in Your Heart. Are you missing invitations from Jesus? Are you listening? Are you responding to His call?

3. Out of the Shadows, into the Light. Are you living your faith in the shadows or in His light? Where could you let His light shine more?

Conclusion: Jesus invites ALL to receive His redemption. It is an invitation given with urgency because in His redemptive love we find new life, we find purpose, and He will use us to build His Kingdom.

Why the urgency? Because God so loved the world...

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Invitations

Week of February 25- March 4, 2023

Ice Breaker: Did you ever receive an invitation you turned down and later wished you had received it?

Read John 3: 1-10.

1. Who was Nicodemus? (v.1)
2. What is significant about his coming to meet with Jesus?
3. What time of day was their meeting? Why? (v.2)
4. What did Nicodemus confess? (v.2)
5. How does Jesus respond to this confession?
6. What truth did Jesus reveal? (v.3)
7. How was Nicodemus interpreting Jesus’ statement? (v.4)
8. What does it mean to be born of water and spirit? (v.5)
9. What is the meaning of v. 6? How does this affect us?
10. How does the analogy Jesus used relate to our being born again as we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior? (v.8)
11. Why was Nicodemus, a religious teacher, struggling with this truth? What would be holding him back?
12. Read John 3: 11-18. Who is Jesus addressing in v. 11? What truth was Jesus revealing as to the purpose of His coming? (vs.16-17) How did this differ from the beliefs of the Pharisees? What other truth did Jesus reveal in v. 18? How might this truth offend the Pharisees?
13. How can this truth from v. 18 offend people yet today? Why?
14. Read Romans 10: 9-10. What are we told that saves us?
15. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What happens when we believe in Jesus and receive Him as our Lord and Savior? How does this prove Jesus’ command that everyone must be born again?
16. Read John 3:21. What is our response in receiving truth?
17. Read John 7: 50-51, 19: 38-40. How did this truth continue to work in Nicodemus’ heart? Did he miss his chance?
18. What did Nicodemus miss out on when Jesus first offered the invitation to be born again?
19. What is the urgency in receiving Jesus’ invitation?

Point to ponder: Jesus desires all to receive His invitation for salvation. That salvation is for here and now, not just our eternity in heaven. Receive all that Jesus offers you, now.