

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Rebel’s Rules for following Jesus” (pt. 5) 2/23/2014

**Scripture:** John 3:1-16

**Bottom Line:** To be ‘born again’ is to have Spiritual Life in Jesus.

**INTRODUCTION:** For some, to be ‘born again’ is just colorful language to express a new path of life that someone is taking. This is not what Christians believe. To be born again first and foremost begins with God as a supernatural act of giving life to a person’s soul. (John 6:63)

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 3:1-6**

What does it mean to be born again?

- If you were to look up the Greek word for ‘again’, you would also see that the word can mean ‘above’. So here, to be born again also means to be born from above. The early Christians coined the phrase “The life of God in the soul of man” to describe God bringing to life a person’s soul.

What is the Kingdom of God?

- Some people may say heaven is the answer and that would be correct. But the kingdom is way bigger than that. Essentially, the kingdom of God is the rule of God or his kingship over everything. So when Jesus says “You must be born again in order to see the Kingdom”, he is not only talking about eternal life. He is also saying that you need spiritual life in order to see God working and ruling. Those who are not ‘born again’ are spiritually blind.

**Read John 3:7-16**

What does Jesus mean when he uses the wind analogy in verse 8?

- This means that God convicts people to believe when and where he chooses. We may not understand why the Holy Spirit acts or doesn’t act, but at this point we trust that he knows what he is doing.

## UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

The Gospel tells us that we were spiritually dead and under God's wrath because of our sin. However, Jesus took the wrath that our sins accrued on himself on the cross, freeing us from eternal damnation and restoring us to fellowship with God through faith in Christ.

How has being born again given you spiritual sight?

- Look at verses 12-13. Jesus essentially tells Nicodemus that he is incapable of understanding spiritual truth. If he couldn't understand the need of a person to be spiritually born (which happens on earth and is clear through peoples wickedness), then he could never understand God the Son descending to earth to provide salvation. Yet, being born again opened his eyes to the work of God.

This world is dark and full of so much hurt. God's love to the world does not seem very apparent. What has God done to love the world?

- The answer is the Cross. When Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, he canceled out sin's penalty for those who believe and restored them to God. This allows the Holy Spirit to begin the process of helping you walk in godliness.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

What should I do if I do not know if I have been 'born again'?

- Believe in the Gospel. Spiritual Birth or Regeneration is the work of God in which he imparts spiritual life to a person. It happens simultaneously when you put your trust in Jesus. So believe that Jesus earned your forgiveness.

How should your life be different if you have been 'born again'?

- You will love Jesus. Even though you will certainly never know all of God's works in the world, you will begin to see it here and there. You will even begin to take part in the work of God (loving others) because of God's work in you.