

**SERMON:** A Conversation about Religion and New Birth

May 12, 2019

**SERIES:** Conversations with Jesus

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

**THE GOAL:** The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS:** Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

**SCRIPTURE:** John 2:23-3:16.

**SERMON OUTLINE:** I. Who needs the new birth? II. What is the new birth? III. How to receive the new birth. IV. Lessons

**REVIEW:** Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

**Observation:** as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

**Interpretation:** answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

**Application:** answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

**GO DEEPER:** Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Nicodemus was very moral but he still needed the new birth. Are there any ways that your own morality might be keeping you from trusting God and his grace?
2. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. How is the new birth described here? Notice that before there is obedience (v27) there is a cleansing and a new heart (25-26). Why is that order so important?
3. Read John 3:14-16. How would you explain the gospel to someone using these verses? (Think about the big ideas of sin, grace, and faith).
4. Discuss these evangelism lessons from John 3: a) you must believe that you need to be born again, b) you must be convinced that everyone needs the new birth, c) You must be able to clearly explain the gospel, d) It should be evident that the new birth has changed you. Which of these lessons stands out to you?

Prayer: Praise God for the new birth that comes by faith in Jesus Christ. Confess your own self-righteousness that might be keeping you from trusting God's grace today. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the good news of the new birth this week.