



JESUS TEACHES ABOUT NEW BIRTH: [John 3:1-21](#)

PRAYER

Pray with those in your home as you get started. Last week, we saw how Jesus revealed His mission. This week, we will look at Jesus' teaching on the new birth, which is necessary for us to understand the King and His Kingdom. Christ's sacrifice on the cross makes possible the true and lasting transformation of our hearts through the new birth. We respond to this new life with a hunger for obedience, and it motivates us to share the good news with others as we trust in the transformational power of the Spirit. Thank God for the Gospel and the new birth we receive as we trust in Jesus as our Savior. As we study this passage, let's ask to continue to transform us to be more like Christ and to point others to Him.

READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage out loud with your household (if you have kids, let them participate):

- [John 3:1-21](#)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

Study the Passage by discussing these questions:

- What stood out or caught your attention in this passage?
- What does this passage teach you about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- What does this passage teach you about people?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

Go a little deeper with these questions:

- How do we apply this passage to our lives?
- What could you share from this passage to encourage someone else?
 - For further study of this passage, consider this outline:
 - » New birth is a work of the Holy Spirit ([John 3:3-8](#)).
 - » New birth comes through faith in the Son of God ([John 3:9-15](#)).
 - » New birth is a gift from God the Father ([John 3:16-18](#)).

CHRIST CONNECTION

Read and discuss the big picture of this passage:

Jesus taught that new birth, not religious activity, is how a person enters the kingdom of God and receives eternal life. New birth is given from God the Father through faith in God the Son as a work of God the Spirit. Because of God's love, we are no longer condemned because of our sin, but we have been given eternal life in Christ.



PRAYER POINTS

Pray together with those in your home for these and any other prayer requests.

- Thank God for eternal life that is possible through the work of Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to give you the passion and opportunities to share the gospel with others.
- Pray for the needs of your family and your friends.
- Pray for our church family as we prepare to return to campus, safely and soon.
- Pray for the leaders and the needs of our community, nation, and world.



CHRIST CONNECTION FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:

Nicodemus wanted life with God, but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift. God showed His love by sending His one and only Son to rescue people from sin. Everyone who believes in Him receives God's gift of eternal life through Jesus.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for preschoolers, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.

- Use the password: "hsbcstudents".

ACTIVITY IDEA

TRY HARD

- Challenge your children with various exercises, increasing how much you challenge them to do after each successful completion. Examples... Stacking cups, lifting light to heavy objects, counting or saying ABCs backwards. Encourage children to try even if they think they cannot do it. Finish with an impossible request, such as jump up and grab a cloud or count all the stars. This time when children say they cannot, respond, "You are right, but God can!" Repeat with different challenges.
- **Say:** Trying hard and getting better at things is good but knowing when we can't do something by ourselves and need God's help is good too. Some people try really hard to obey all of God's laws because they think doing that will get them into heaven. Obeying God is good, but it doesn't get us into heaven. Getting to heaven is not something we can do for ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

SING TRUTH

- Sing the following lyrics to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Use the sign for Jesus (touch the tip of your middle finger to the center palm of the other hand, and vice versa). Stretch arms up high for heaven, then reach down to the floor for earth. Repeat several times at varying speeds.

"Jesus came from heaven to earth, heaven to earth, heaven to earth, Jesus came from heaven to earth to give us life with God."

- **Say:** Nicodemus knew that Jesus came from God because of the miracles Jesus did. But Nicodemus was confused about how to get life from God. **Jesus told Nicodemus about God's great plan.** Eternal life is a gift. God showed His love by sending His one and only Son to rescue people from sin. Everyone who believes in Him receives God's gift of eternal life through Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:

Nicodemus needed new life - eternal life - but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His one and only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for younger and older kids, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.

- Use the password: "hsbcstudents".

ACTIVITY IDEAS

I SEEK

- Have one family member secretly pick an object in the room. They will start the game by telling the rest of the family the color of the object they are seeking. One at a time, the rest of the family must try to figure out what they are seeking and bring it to them if possible. Once one family members realizes the object being sought, they get a turn to pick an object.
- **Say:** You all sought some great objects in our game. Today, we are learning about a man named Nicodemus. He was a religious leader in Jesus' time. He was seeking Jesus. Why do you think Nicodemus sought Jesus?

HOW IN THE WORLD?

- Write 4 questions on separate index cards or sheets of paper regarding how things work. You may use these questions, or come up with your own:
 1. How can flies land on the ceiling?
Answer: hairs on a fly's footpads produce sticky "glue" made of sugar and oil
 2. How do glasses help people see?
Answer: eyeglasses bend light coming toward the eye to correct vision
 3. Why is the ocean salty?
Answer: rain breaks down rocks on land and washes salty elements (sodium and chloride) into the ocean
 4. Why does ice cream cause a "brain freeze"?
Answer: the cold quickly constricts the blood vessels in the roof of your mouth
- Provide a pencil and 2 index cards for each family member (they'll use the front and back of each card). Read one question and invite the family to write a brief answer. If they don't know the right answer to the question, encourage them to write their best guess. Then call for each family member to read their answer and have everyone vote on which answer they think is correct. Then share the correct explanation. Play again for each question.
- **Say:** Those were some hard questions to answer! Sometimes answers are difficult to understand. In the Bible story from today, a man asked Jesus, "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Jesus told him exactly what God's plan was to give people new life.



RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

For additional resources for students, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.

- Use the password: "hsbcstudents".

FURTHER STUDY FOR FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE: REGENERATION

Regeneration takes place at the beginning of the Christian life and is the miraculous transformation, or the new birth, that takes place within an individual through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ([John 3:3-8](#); [Titus 3:5](#)). It is the divine side of conversion (a person turning to Christ in repentance and faith), being the work of God within a person's life that causes him or her to be born again, a work that human effort is unable to produce.

DEEPER DISCUSSION

HEAD

- What can we learn from Nicodemus being a religious person who didn't know the truth when it came to having a relationship with God?
- Why is it important that we realize God sets the terms and conditions of how we come to Him, and not the other way around?

HEART

- Why is it important to first understand the sin in our hearts in order to fully appreciate God's gift of grace?
- How would you explain to someone what it means to have "faith" and "believe" using this account between Jesus and Nicodemus?

HANDS

- What should be our response to God's love toward us in Jesus?
- What steps will you take toward sharing the gospel of Christ with others this week?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Option 1:

Because God has given us a gift that we didn't earn or deserve, we should be compelled to give to others. Think of someone your family knows that is in need and come up with an unexpected gift to bless them with this week. Give it to them anonymously or give it to them as a chance to share about the free gift of salvation given to each of us.

Option 2:

The Chosen is a new 8-episode, multi-season series on YouTube that focuses on the life of Christ. Nicodemus is a prominent character. Watch the first season as a family and talk about what you can learn from Nicodemus' character in the show.