

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
Week of February 21, 2016
John 3:1-16

CENTRAL TRUTH: One must be born again to have eternal life in heaven.

1. What is people's reaction to the term "born again?" Why do you think they have such a reaction?
2. Read John 3:1-16 and answer the following questions.
 - a. We see in this story a three-fold pattern that we often see when Jesus has a "gospel encounter" with people: (1) Jesus says something that has at least two layers of meaning; (2) the listener misinterprets Jesus' meaning; (3) Jesus clarifies and teaches what he means and, in so doing, explains some truth about the gospel. Identify each part of the pattern in Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus.
 - b. Why do you think Nicodemus finds it so hard to grasp or believe what Jesus is saying about who can see and enter the kingdom of God (v. 9)?
 - c. Read Numbers 21:4-9. What is going on in this Old Testament story? How does it explain what Jesus means when he says that the Son of Man must be lifted up (vv, 14-15)?
 - d. What is the main point that Jesus is making in John 3:1-16 about who enters the kingdom of God, and how does it defy the belief that if you do more good than evil, then you are good enough to go to heaven (i.e., performance-based salvation)?



3. Read this quote from Sunday's sermon. How does it speak to you?

We do not get to heaven on the basis of external formalities or our good work. Instead, it is based on the good work that Jesus did on the cross...We are saved by faith in Christ; nothing else, and nothing more. We are saved when we stop trusting in our moral efforts or the law and trust in the work of Christ."

4. Read this quote from Sunday's sermon. What is the difference between living "for" and living "from"? Have you experienced this statement to be true? If so, then how?

*Living **for** acceptance and love is slavery, but living **from** acceptance and love is freedom.*

5. PRAYER: Pray that your Plus One will open his or her heart to receive the love of God and be born again.