

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Use the following questions below for individual or group study. Begin in prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak during this time.

Share with the Group

Have you ever had a teacher whom you knew was really smart, but you didn't understand what they were saying or why? What happened? What was it like? How did you respond? Did you press in or withdraw? Why?

Read John 3:1-22

Who are the main characters in this passage? How would you describe them based only on what you see in these verses?

Pastor Adam said that Nicodemus represents both the elite and the common people, both the urban and rural, both the Temple and the Pharisees. Why does this matter? How does it shape the meaning of what's happening in these verses? What does it say about Jesus? How might it overlap with modern times?

Jesus speaks of "seeing" the Kingdom in vs 3. Based on the rest of the passage, what does he mean by this phrase? What about the phrases "born from above," "born of water and the spirit," "came from heaven," and "lifted up"?

Why does Nicodemus struggle to hear Jesus' call to repentance and baptism?

Using the broader context of John's Gospel, how is the baptism Jesus offers different from the baptism of the Jews or the baptism of John?

Who is the "we" in vs 11? What testimony is Jesus referencing? Likewise, who is the "you people"? Why does Jesus shift into plurals for verses 11&12?

John 3:16 is a famous verse, but one which is often read in isolation. How does reading it in its fuller context change/deepen/inform your understanding?

What is Jesus saying in verses 19-21? Put it in your own words.

Why does John transition from the Nicodemus story to Jesus baptizing?

Talk About It

Pastor Adam gave 3 invitations on Sunday: bringing your honest questions to Jesus; stepping out of darkness into the light; receiving baptism. Is there one you need to take? If so, how will you do it?

Is there another invitation you sense in this passage? If so, what is it? How will you take steps to respond to it?

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