

Digging Deeper into John 3:1-7

Chat

- If you could ask God any question, what would it be?
- Do you find it easy or hard to ask questions about God and the Bible?



Study

Read John 3:1-7

- Why do you think Nicodemus came at night to see Jesus?
- Nicodemus appears three times in John's Gospel. On this first occasion what does he believe about Jesus? (v.2)
- Jesus doesn't really acknowledge what Nicodemus has said about him. Instead, he gets to the heart of what he believes Nicodemus' questions are about. What is that? (v.3)
- Why do you think Jesus uses the image of being "born again" to describe what it's like to become part of God's kingdom?

You might like to look back at John 1:9-13

- Nicodemus' misunderstanding of what Jesus is saying is a helpful reminder to us to think about the language we use when we talk to people about God. Jesus was speaking to a religious man with a good knowledge of the Old Testament and so was able to use words and phrases which wouldn't work for everybody.

How would you describe becoming part of God's family to someone who had no religious background?

- v.5-6 may be a little confusing
In speaking of water and the Spirit, Jesus may have in mind a prophecy from Ezekiel 26:24-27. If that is the background to this conversation, what do you think Jesus is trying to say to Nicodemus?
- In some parts of the New Testament, 'flesh' is used to talk of the world's ways as opposed to God's ways but John uses it differently. Read ch.1:14 – how is John using the word 'flesh' here?
So, Jesus seems to be saying that this new birth into God's family needs the Spirit's work.

You might like to read the rest of John 3 to find out how Jesus answered Nicodemus' next question

Read John 7:28-32, 45-52

This is the second time Nicodemus appears in John's Gospel

- What is the reaction of most of the Pharisees to Jesus and his teaching?
- How does Nicodemus stand up for Jesus?
- How do the other Pharisees respond to Nicodemus?

Read John 19:38-42

This is the third and final time Nicodemus appears in John's Gospel (and in the Bible)

- What difference do you see in Nicodemus now compared to the first time we see him in John's Gospel?
- He supplied an unusually huge amount of myrrh and aloes (about 35kg). Do you think that tells us anything about how he felt about Jesus?
- Our verse for the year (Jn.20:31) tells us that John wrote his gospel so that people who read/heard it would believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and have life in his name. Do you think that Nicodemus reached this fullness of life through belief in Jesus? Why/why not?

Think

- How can what you've learnt from these verses impact your own relationship with Jesus this week?
- What stops you from asking questions about God or the Bible?
- If you have a question on your mind, who will you talk to about that this week?

