

WEEK 7: TO THOSE WHO THINK THEY HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

prepare

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main point

What would Jesus say to someone who tries really hard to keep all the religious rules, who believes he can be good enough to gain life and earn everlasting life? Would Jesus affirm the effort? In a famous conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus describes what He came to this world to do and tells Nicodemus that he must be born again.

Lean in

break the ice

Would you call yourself more of a rule breaker or a rule follower? Share a story.

Look down

look at God's Word

Read John 3:1-21

1 There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to him at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him."

3 Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. 8 The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

10 “Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied. 11 “Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man.

14 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

19 This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. 21 But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

What stands out to you about Nicodemus?

What stands out to you about Jesus' response?

What do you learn about belief and salvation?

Look out

identify the

relevance of God's

Word in the world

What are the things that people think will save them?

What are the things that cause people to reject salvation?

Look in

apply God's Word

to your life

Where are you trying to accomplish salvation on your own?

What would it look like for you to run from performance to Jesus?