



This summer's series looks at the foundations of faith and grapples with some of the basics. This series will cover areas you may have looked at before but it is always good to check your foundations and go deeper in some of these fundamentals. This study considers what it means to 'be born again.' There are several 'going deeper' questions you may like to explore depending on your group but do start with Q1 and focus on Q3-8.

1. Where have you seen evidence of God in your life this week? Are there any stories you might share?

STARTERS:

2. When have you started something new? How did it go? Are you still doing it?

Read John 3:1-15

3. What do you think about the term 'being born again'? Is it a helpful phrase today?
4. If someone asked you if you were a 'born again Christian', what would you say?
5. What do you think Jesus meant by this term 'being born again'? (v5-8)
6. Do you have any experiences of God that you would say indicate that you are 'born again'?
7. What would you say to a Christian who wasn't sure if they've been born again?
8. In his sermon, Rick asked us: 'How much effort we put into being born the 1st time?' What is our part in being born again?
9. What do you know about Nicodemus? What can be gleaned from this passage?
10. Why do you think Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night?
11. Have you ever felt trepidation about asking Jesus something? What drove that fear?

Going deeper (options):

12. In John's gospel- his preferred phrase 'eternal life' v15 is synonymous with the phrase 'the kingdom of God' v3. (This is the only direct use of that phrase in the gospel). What are the similarities and differences in your mind between these 2 phrases? (This is the only direct use of the phrase in John's gospel). What are the similarities of differences in your mind between these phrases?
13. What difference would swapping the phrase eternal life for the kingdom of God make for you in, for example, John 3:16; 4:14; 17:3.
14. The story of the bronze serpent can be found in Numbers 21:1-9. What was happening in this story? Why do you think Jesus links 'being born again' with looking at the 'lifted up' Son?
15. Is there an area or circumstance in your life that you find it hard to 'look to Jesus', to believe and receive eternal life? Take some time of quiet reflection to ask his Spirit to breathe new life into this area and give you the courage to look to him.

Final Prayers:

- Is there anything else that today's study has thrown up that you need to pray into?
If you've spent lots of time thinking about being born again, it might be good to take time to ask God for a fresh infilling of his Spirit.
- Are there any other things for which people would like prayer?
- Lift one another up to God for the week ahead.