

Small Group Discussion Guide: Pointing to Jesus

Exploring Nicodemus' Encounter with Jesus

John 3:1-21

Opening Icebreaker:

- Do you think Christian bumper stickers are in the same category as Tebowing? Why or why not?
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Reading: John 3:1-21

- Read aloud the first 15 verses (up to the "born again" passage) as a group. Then read verses 16-21, which highlight God's mission for the world.
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Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding Nicodemus' Search for Jesus

- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? What might this tell us about his faith journey and potential barriers he faced in seeking the truth?
 - What qualities of a "seeker" do you see in Nicodemus' approach to Jesus? (Consider his open heart and acknowledgment of Jesus' miracles.)
 - What does it mean to "seek" Jesus today? How does this differ from merely learning facts about him?
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2. The Concept of Being "Born Again"

- When Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be "born again," what do you think this phrase means? How does it challenge our own ideas of faith?
- How does Jesus' teaching on "being born again" connect to Old Testament themes, such as in Ezekiel or Numbers? Why is understanding these references important for Nicodemus' faith journey?
- How do we sometimes struggle with understanding or accepting Jesus' teachings in our own lives?

3. The Battle Within: Believing vs. Believing In

- What do you think is the difference between "believing that Jesus is the Son of God" and "believing in Jesus as the Son of God"? Why is that distinction important?
- The passage highlights a "battle of darkness" in the hearts of those seeking Jesus. Have you experienced a struggle to come to the light? What obstacles hold people back from fully embracing Jesus?
- John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible, summarizing God's love for the world. How does this verse shape your understanding of God's purpose in sending Jesus?

4. Tim Tebow as an Example of Public Faith

- Tim Tebow used his platform to express his faith, whether through Tebowing or writing Bible verses on his eye black. How can we live out our faith in our everyday actions? What are some practical ways we can be "the light" in the world?
- In what ways can we use our positions or platforms—whether at work, school, or in social circles—to point others to Jesus without necessarily using words?

Application and Reflection:

- Personal Challenge: Reflect on your own faith journey. Are you a seeker like Nicodemus? Or are you fully trusting in Jesus as the Son of God for your eternal life?
- Action Step: This week, identify one way you can "live in the light" or share your testimony with someone who may be seeking.

Closing Prayer:

- Pray for those who are seeking and that they would come to understand the depth of God's love and truth through Jesus. Pray for the courage to be bold in our faith and to help others take the next step in their journey with Christ.