DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · GRADES 1–2

You Must Be Born Again

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 09 · November 8, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: Nicodemus was an important teacher who tried very hard to keep God's rules, but Jesus said he needed a brand-new heart. We can't make ourselves new. God gives new life when we look to Jesus.

Memory verse: John 3:3 — "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" (Younger kids can learn the last part: "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.")

Time: 10–15 minutes. Keep it moving; let every child answer at least once.

WARM UP

1. **Have you ever gone to the doctor when you were sick? What did the doctor do to help you get better?**

   Today a man named Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night with questions, and Jesus tells him what he really needs.

TALK ABOUT IT

2. **Who was Nicodemus?**

   A teacher and leader who knew a lot about God and tried very hard to keep all the rules.

3. **Jesus told Nicodemus he needed to be "born again." What do you think that means?**

   Not being a baby again! It means God gives us a brand-new heart on the inside so we can know Him.

4. **Can we make our own hearts new by being really, really good?**

   No. Being good is good, but it can't give us a new heart. Only God can do that.

5. **When God's people were bitten by snakes, what did God tell them to do?**

   Look at the bronze snake on the pole, and they would live! Jesus said He would be lifted up too, and everyone who looks to Him and believes gets life forever.

DO IT

Look and live. Draw a simple snake on a pole and hold it up high. Tell the story: God's people were sick from snake bites, and God said, "Just look, and you will live." Have the kids try to "fix" a pretend bite by rubbing it, blowing on it, or hopping on one foot. Then say "Look!" and have everyone look up at the paper. Say: We can't fix ourselves. Jesus was lifted up on the cross, and we look to Him.

PRAY TOGETHER

Have them repeat after you: "Dear Jesus, I can't make my heart new, but You can. Help me look to You. Amen."

Send them home with the Family Take-Home sheet. Next week: Week 10 · The Love That Saves · John 3:16–21 · November 15, 2026