DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · GRADES 3–5

You Must Be Born Again

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

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: Nicodemus was one of the most religious men in Israel, but Jesus told him he must be born again. We can't earn our way to God or make ourselves new. God gives new life to everyone who looks to Jesus.

Read together: John 3:1–15. Memory verse: John 3:3.

Time: 15–20 minutes. Slow down on question 6. That is where the lesson turns toward them.

WARM UP

1. **What is something you tried really hard to fix on your own, but you just couldn't?**
   Nicodemus had worked hard his whole life to be right with God, and something was still missing.

NICODEMUS

2. **Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a leader, and a teacher. Why do you think he came to Jesus at night?**
   So no one would see him. Something was stirring in his heart, and he wanted answers.

3. **The Pharisees made extra rules to keep from breaking God's rules. Some even washed all the way up to their elbows! Can following lots of rules make someone right with God?**
   No. Rules can't change a heart.

4. **Jesus said, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." What does it mean to be born again?**
   God gives you a new heart and new life on the inside by His Spirit. It is something God does, not something we do.

LOOK AND LIVE

5. **Read Numbers 21:8–9. What did the people bitten by snakes have to do to live?**
   Just look at the bronze snake on the pole. God provided the cure.

6. **Jesus said He would be "lifted up" like that snake (John 3:14–15). Pastor Jeff asked, "Are you trusting in what Jesus has done for you, or what you've done for Jesus?" How would you answer?**
   Jesus was lifted up on the cross. We are saved by looking to Him, not by being good enough.

SO WHAT

7. **Pastor Jeff said, "You can be deeply religious and still desperately need to be saved." Why is it easy to think going to church or being good is enough?**

THIS WEEK

Memorize John 3:3. Then write down one thing you sometimes trust instead of Jesus, cross it out, and pray, "Jesus, I look to You." Next week: Week 10 · The Love That Saves · John 3:16–21 · November 15, 2026