

DISCUSSION GUIDE

You Must Be Born Again
The Gospel of John — Week 9

ICEBREAKER: Why are we here?

OVERVIEW: Christianity is not behavior modification; it is the radical transformation of the human personality by the power of the Holy Spirit. This transformation is called the new birth, or regeneration, and it is required to go to heaven, and to overcome sin on earth. In this study we will go deeper with the Bible's teaching on the new birth and learn how we can make sure that we have experienced it.

1. **Read John 3:1-15.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. John 3:3 says that the new birth is required to see the kingdom of God. What is the kingdom of God? Why must we be born again to see the kingdom of God?
3. How does John 3:5 help us understand the new birth? In other words, how do the terms "water" and "Spirit" illuminate the meaning of the new birth?
4. John 3:7 says that the new birth is a command – "you must be born again." How can we obey this command if the new birth is a work of the Holy Spirit?

5. Read John 3:8. Like the wind, we can't understand the new birth, but we can see its effects. What are some of the effects of the new birth? See 1 John 2:29, 1 John 3:9, 1 John 4:7, and 1 John 5:4.
6. Read John 3:14-15. To what Old Testament story is Jesus referring? How does it relate to Jesus and the new birth?
7. What is the benefit of the new birth in John 3:15?
8. How can the doctrine of the new birth be helpful in parenting?
9. Have you experienced the new birth? Explain.

The Last Word: "Where this work of regeneration is wrought, the heart has a new bias, and the life a new bent." Thomas Watson