Introduction: Look to nature for examples of transformation.

Ask, “What are some animals that go through metamorphosis or that have a total change in form from how they look at birth and how they look as an adult?” Help group members get started by gleaning some information from the following websites about animals and metamorphoses:

- “15 Examples of the Most Epic Metamorphoses from Youth to Adult”: https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/85126/15-examples-most-dramatic-metamorphoses-youth-adult

Say something like the following: “These changes are visible; their metamorphosis is clearly seen from the outside. But have you ever heard of an animal that completely changes on the inside?”

Share information and photos from the following article about a deep-sea snail whose metamorphosis is completely internal: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/11/science/snail-metamorphosis.html

Then state the following: “In this session, we’re going to see that we’re not so different from all these animals. Through Jesus, we change completely, inside and out.”

Point 1: Delve into the passage’s analogy of wind.

Before discussing Point 1, ask a few volunteers to tell what they know about wind: What is wind? What causes wind? What effects wind?

Show the following video, “What is Wind?” (3 minutes, 10 seconds), telling the answers to these questions and more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzSqhrn2dDM
Ask, “After watching this video, how does the wind point to God? How can you see God’s power in the wind?” Note this information as your group discusses John 3:8 specifically.

**Point 2: Show how the passage teaches us to point to Jesus.**

After discussing John 3:9-15 in Point 2, be ready to review the original story of Moses lifting up the serpent found in Numbers 21:4-9.

Use the information from the following John Piper sermon “The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up — Like the Serpent,” talking about the passage: https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-son-of-man-must-be-lifted-up-like-the-serpent

Use the information under the “Like a Snake?” subheading to find content useful for explaining the Numbers 21 passage. Then scroll down to the “Look and Live” subheading and read or re-tell the story of Charles Spurgeon’s conversion.

**Conclusion: Use a video to provide insight to a familiar verse.**

Read aloud the following from the “Explain” portion of My Mission in the Leader Guide (page 134): “Because of God’s love, we are no longer condemned because of our sin, but we have been given eternal life in Christ. God’s love toward us flows out of His loving nature, not because of our loveliness. Understanding God’s great love for us as sinners ought to motivate us to share that love with others.”

Show the following BibleProject video “Word Study: Agape—‘Love’” (4 minutes, 48 seconds), which beautifully paints the picture of these truths: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slyevQ1LW7A&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecfOdfwWBawnNT5ZkGFHxBf&index=13

As a group, consider how God’s love for us—while we were still sinners—should be visible in our relationships and everyday actions.
Teaching Tip of the Week

Remind group members that though they may have heard these familiar words many times, the truths bear repeating many times. Point out that Nicodemus was a leader in the Jewish community; perhaps he thought he didn’t need a refresher course on God. But the words of Jesus have the power to fall fresh and anew on those who will hear them with an open heart.