



# *Walking With the Savior*

## *Through An Eyewitness Account of John*

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come.

### *Joining John on the Journey with Jesus*

## *Background Matters*

**Nicodemus** represented the best in the nation. He was a teacher (v. 10), a Pharisee, and a **member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council**. The Sanhedrin had 70 members who were responsible for religious decisions and also, under the Romans, for civil rule.<sup>1</sup>

Why did Nicodemus go **to Jesus at night**? Because of fear? Because it was the normal time for visits? Because he wanted a time of uninterrupted conversation without the distractions of the ever-present crowds? John did not say why. And yet nighttime has a sinister tone in the Fourth Gospel (cf. 9:4; 11:10; 13:30; 19:39). Nicodemus began, **Rabbi, we know You are a Teacher who has come from God**. “We” probably means the favorable ones on the council. The titles “Rabbi” and “Teacher” are polite and flattering on one hand, but they showed Nicodemus’

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<sup>1</sup> Edwin A. Blum, [“John,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 280.



inadequate comprehension of who Jesus is. The words “from God” are in an emphatic position in the Greek. The **signs** had pointed out Jesus as God’s Man (**God** was **with Him**), and Nicodemus wanted to talk to Him as one Rabbi to another.

3:3. But **Jesus** was not on the same level with Nicodemus. He is “from above” (*anōthen*; v. 31); therefore Nicodemus must be born “from above” (v. 3, niv marg.; *anōthen*). To be **born again** or born “from above” (*anōthen* has both meanings; e.g., “from above” in 19:11 and “again” in Gal. 4:9) is to have a spiritual transformation which takes a person out of the kingdom of darkness into **the kingdom of God** (cf. Col. 1:13). The kingdom is the sphere or realm of God’s authority and blessing which is now invisible but will be manifested on earth (Matt. 6:10).

3:4. **Nicodemus** was certain Jesus did not mean something absurd (such as a reincarnation or a **second** physical birth), but yet he did not grasp the nature of regeneration.

3:5. Various views are given to explain Jesus’ words about being **born of water and the Spirit**: (1) The “water” refers to the natural birth, and the “Spirit” to the birth from above. (2) The “water” refers to the Word of God (Eph. 5:26). (3) The “water” refers to baptism as an essential part of regeneration. (*This view contradicts other Bible verses that make it clear that salvation is by faith alone; e.g., John 3:16, 36; Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 3:5.*) (4) The “water” is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37–39). (5) The “water” refers to the repentance ministry of John the Baptist, and the “Spirit” refers to the application by the Holy Spirit of Christ to an individual.

The fifth view has the merit of historical propriety as well as theological acceptability. John the Baptist had stirred the nation by his ministry and stress on repentance (Matt. 3:1–6). “Water” would remind Nicodemus of the Baptist’s emphasis. So Jesus was saying that Nicodemus, in order to **enter the kingdom**, needed to turn to Him (repent) in order to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

3:6–7. There are two distinct realms: one is of fallen man (the **flesh**) and the other is of God (**the Spirit**). A fallen person cannot regenerate himself; he needs a divine operation. Only God’s Holy Spirit can regenerate a human spirit.

People should not stumble at or reject the importance of Jesus’ words. They **must be born** from above. The necessity is absolute and is universally binding.<sup>1</sup>

***This week in "Walking With the Savior,"*** we move into John chapter 3, Jesus encounters Nicodemus. What begins as a natural conversation quickly transforms into a profound spiritual experience. Jesus addresses Nicodemus’ questions using language he can understand, yet the spiritual insights shared go beyond Nicodemus’ comprehension. When Nicodemus grasps the words but struggles to understand their deeper meaning, where does he turn for clarity? This encounter concludes without resolving the confusion, highlighting a challenge many

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<sup>1</sup> Edwin A. Blum, [“John,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 280–281.



people face today: they hear the words but do not fully understand their spiritual significance. Such misunderstandings often lead individuals to walk away without truly knowing Christ.

This week, consider what Jesus said and what Nicodemus expressed. **Which side of the conversation will you choose today?**

**Study Guide 8** *This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.*

## **The Classroom of Faith**

### **John 3:1–21**

Topics:

Assurance, Basics of the Faith, Believe, Darkness, Eternal Life, Faith, Gifts, God, Gospel, Heaven, Humility, Jesus Christ, Kingdom of God/Heaven, Love, New Life, Salvation, Unbelievers, Understanding, World

**Open It, Mondays.** Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. \*When have you felt like you wanted to start life all over again?

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**Explore It,** Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. To what group did Nicodemus belong? (3:1)

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3. At what time did Nicodemus visit Jesus? (3:2)

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4. Why did Nicodemus believe Jesus was from God? (3:2)

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5. What is the qualification for seeing the kingdom of God? (3:3)

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6. What did Nicodemus think Jesus meant when He said that a person must be born again? (3:4)

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7. \*What is required to enter the kingdom of God? (3:5–6)

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8. How did Jesus compare the wind to the Spirit? (3:8)

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9. Why should Nicodemus have understood what Jesus said? (3:10)

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**Push on Wednesday**, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

10. About what category of things did Jesus say He was talking? (3:12)

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11. Who did Jesus say had gone to heaven? (3:13)

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12. How did Jesus compare Moses' snake with the Son of Man? (3:14)

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13. \*What is the result of believing in the Son of Man? (3:15, 18)

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14. How did God demonstrate His love for the world? (3:16)

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15. \*Why did God send His Son into the world? (3:17)

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16. How does the person who lives by truth respond to the light? (3:19–21)

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**Get It Thursdays**, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. When would you say you were born again?

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18. \*How would you describe what it means to be born again to someone?

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19. What were some of the circumstances that led you to Jesus?

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20. What were some of the things that caused you to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

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21. Why are spiritual truths often hard to understand?

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22. What are a few spiritual truths that you struggle to understand?

**Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.**

23. \*How does God's gift of His Son affect our lives?

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24. How can a person live by the light?

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25. \*For what specific spiritual truths will you seek answers this week?

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*A Journey Through The Gospel of John* **2026**

Download your study guide at: [Unlockingthetruth.us](http://Unlockingthetruth.us)