

Light & Life - The Book Of John  
"Regeneration" John 3:1-15  
Cornerstone Church Of Poway  
Pastor Ed Turley  
July 16, 2023

### Bible Background:

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people **grew impatient** on the way; <sup>5</sup> they **spoke against God and against Moses**, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "**We sinned** when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; **anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.**" <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived. **Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)**

### To Experience Regeneration, We Must:

#### 1. Seek Jesus, Not Miracles

Now there was a man of the **Pharisees** named **Nicodemus**, a member of the **Jewish ruling council**. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing **if God were not with him.**" **John 3:1-2 (NIV)**

But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. **Matthew 12:39-40 (NLT2)**

#### 2. Be Born Again By God's Spirit

<sup>3</sup> In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, **no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**" <sup>4</sup> "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit gives birth to spirit.** <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

**John 3:3-7 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**" <sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup> "**You are Israel's teacher,**" said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to

you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **John 3:8-12 (NIV)**

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. **Ezekiel 36:24-28 (NIV)**

### **3. Place Your Confident Trust In The Jesus Of The Bible**

<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except **the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. John 3:13 (NIV)**

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one **like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given **authority, glory and sovereign power**; all peoples, nations and men of every language **worshiped him**. His dominion is an **everlasting dominion** that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

**Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so **the Son of Man must be lifted up**,  
<sup>15</sup> that **everyone** who **believes** in Him may have **eternal life. John 3:14-15 (NIV)**

#### **Big Idea:**

To know Who Jesus is and to place our confident trust in Him as our Lord & Savior.

"But these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name." **John 20:31 (NIV) Remember Verse**

Yet to all who **received Him**, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God. John 1:12-13 (NIV)**

➤ Have you placed your confident trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

#### **My next right step, I will:**

- [ ] Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior
- [ ] Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism
- [ ] Sign up for Foundations Class
- [ ] Sign up for a Small Group

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family.]

**Open in Prayer.**

**Icebreaker:**

- ❖ What is a good analogy of new life? Why?

**To Experience Regeneration, We Must:**

**1. Seek Jesus, Not Miracles**

**Read John 3:1-2**

What do we learn about Nicodemus? 3:1,2,10

Was Nicodemus looking for another miracle?

**Read Matthew 12:39-40**

What is the ONE sign that is most important?

What is the problem in always looking for another sign?

**2. Be Born Again By God’s Spirit**

**The MacArthur Study Bible Commentary**

3:5 born of water and the Spirit. Jesus referred not to literal water here but to the need for "cleansing" (e.g., Eze 36:24-27). When water is used figuratively in the OT, it habitually refers to renewal or spiritual cleansing, especially when used in conjunction with "spirit" (Nu 19:17-19; Ps 51:9, 10; Isa 32:15; 44:3-5; 55:1-3; Jer 2:13; Joel 2:28, 29). Thus, Jesus made reference to the spiritual washing or purification of the soul, accomplished by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God at the moment of salvation (cf. Eph 5:26; Tit 3:5), required for belonging to His kingdom.

**Read John 3:3-12**

What does it mean to be born again?

What evidence can you see of the Holy Spirit influencing your life?

### **Read Ezekiel 36:24-28**

How does this passage support to be born again?

What is God's promise?

### **3. Place Your Confident Trust In The Jesus Of The Bible**

#### **Read John 3:13**

What claim does Jesus make?

Why is this significant?

#### **Read Daniel 7:13-14**

What attributes are given to the "Son of Man" in Daniel's vision?

Could this be said of any human?

#### **Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary - John.**

Jesus drew upon a familiar episode in Israel's history (recorded in Num. 21:4-9) to illustrate how regeneration takes place. When this episode occurred, the Israelites had experienced God's miraculous deliverance from slavery in Egypt: ten plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, a pillar of cloud and pillar of fire to lead them. Yet they began to grumble and complain. Eventually, God decided to discipline His disbelieving, disobedient people with an affliction of venomous snakes. As people began to die, Moses interceded. In response, the Lord instructed him to fashion a bronze snake and set it on a pole so that those who were bitten could look up at it. He then promised that when a person looked upon the bronze representation of his or her affliction, the venom would lose its effectiveness (Num. 21:8-9). Just as God had promised, the plan worked. Not only did the people survive the affliction; they also gained a powerful object lesson in repentance.

The Israelites' experience in the desert was a foreshadowing of what Jesus did for all people when He was "lifted up" on a cross (see also 2 Cor. 5:21). When we acknowledge our sin, take complete responsibility for our guilt, and come to the Lord for healing, the poison of evil loses its power to kill.

#### **Read John 3:14-15**

What did the Israelites have to do to be forgiven and healed?

Who does Jesus offer eternal life to?

"But these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name." **John 20:31 (NIV) Remember Verse**

#### **Read John 1:12-13**

What must you do to be born again?

Close in prayer.