

Story Time

Part 9 – Look and Live!
John 3:14-17; Numbers 21:4-10

Jesus receives a nighttime visitor: NICODEMUS

John 3:1-14

Nicodemus believes Jesus is CONNECTED to God vs. 1-2

Jesus invites Nicodemus to be BORN-AGAIN vs. 3

Jesus refers to Moses and the fiery SERPENT

Numbers 21:4-10

Israel's BITTERNESS burns against God and Moses

God's DISCIPLINE of some of the complainers

Israel's REMORSE and request

God's UNUSUAL solution – Look and Live!

Jesus reminds Nicodemus of SALVATION'S path

John 3:15-17

Everyone is SNAKE BITTEN by sin

Being RELIGIOUS is NOT the antidote

God's UNUSUAL solution – Look and Live!

True relationship is founded upon BELIEF, not duty

Auburn Grace Community Church – July 30th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 30, 2023

John 3:14-15 “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

DISCOVER (Read John 3:1-18 and Numbers 21:1-9)

1. Have you ever felt like you wanted to start life all over again? What would be different? What ideals and goals would change?
2. Give some synonyms or terms that would be adequate equivalents for the expression “born again.” Why was this so startling an analogy to Nicodemus, after all, he was a “teacher of Israel”? (see v. 3:10)
3. Why didn't God simply remove the venomous snakes? What did the bronze replica of a snake represent? (see Numbers 21:6-9)
4. Out of all the stories and prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures that foretell of Jesus, why choose this story? Why did Jesus choose to remind Nicodemus of Moses lifting up the bronze snake in the wilderness story?

EXPLORE

1. Re-read Numbers 21:4-5. Identify the four transgressions in this passage.
2. In John 3:4, Nicodemus understands Jesus' words only at a surface level. This happens several times in the Book of John. Look up these other examples of misunderstandings and summarize your findings: John 2:19-20; 4:1-15; and 11:11-14. What point is John trying to make by recording these misunderstandings?
3. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27 and 37:9-10. If you had shared these scriptures with Nicodemus after Jesus talked about new birth and venomous snakes, would the passages have helped in his understanding? Why or why not? How can we help one another so that we do not miss vitally important things in the Scriptures?
4. What two ideas about birth are Jesus and Nicodemus thinking of? What point is Jesus making by comparing spiritual birth to the wind? How does Jesus account for Nicodemus' lack of understanding?

EXPERIENCE

1. How is Jesus' use of the words “born again” similar and different from the way they are used today? How would you define what it means to a person who has never heard the phrase?
2. John 3:16 is probably the best-known verse in the Bible and is often used to sum up the gospel message in one verse. What extra meaning does the verse take when read in the surrounding context? How might you relate this to a curious unbeliever?
3. What first aroused your interest in Jesus? Why? Where are you right now in the birthing process of spiritual life: Not yet conceived? Developing, but not so anyone could tell? Heavy with child and waiting? Kicking and screaming like an infant? Growing daily? Explain.
4. With the understanding that we've all been snake-bit by sin, what is your motive for following Jesus?

PRAY

Pray... Thank You, Father, that You have provided the way of salvation in Christ Jesus. Help us to lift Him up daily; that we might fix an unwavering gaze on His saving work on the Cross. Give us the wisdom, boldness and gentleness to share Your Son with those who would listen. Amen.

Apply...Homework! For your next meeting, have your Life Group members write down their version of a concise rendering of the gospel message. Allow for a time of sharing what they wrote. Encourage feedback from the group so that the gospel synopses can be tweaked. Then, ask them to share their summaries with someone that God has put on their heart.