

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:1-8

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What do you know about your physical heart? Have you ever had heart surgery? When was the last time you had a check-up? Do you know your heart rate? How healthy is your heart right now?
- What do you know about your spiritual heart? Has God performed spiritual heart surgery on you? Do you know how healthy your spiritual heart is right now? How can you tell?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us that each of us must be born again in order to enter Heaven.**

To Be Born Again, You Must:

1. **Admit you're not a child of God (John 3:1-3; 2:23-25)**

- If you're a Christ-follower, tell your group briefly what your life was like before you met Jesus.
- Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, indicating his reluctance to be identified with Christ. Are there times that you have been reluctant, resistant, or even ashamed to be identified as a Christ-follower? Talk about what might be happening in your heart during those times. How can you prevent that from happening again?
- Take out your spiritual heart and look at it. Is it still dark, or has Jesus brought you into the light?

2. **Believe Jesus died and rose again - for you (John 3:3-7; 1:12-13)**

- At salvation, God gives us a brand new start with a brand new heart. Think of some other passages that talk about what must happen in order to be born again. As a group, come up with a simple theology of salvation.
- Do you have a time when you crossed over from spiritual death into spiritual life? Check out 2 Corinthians 6:2. If you can't remember a specific time of your salvation, talk about how you know for sure you are saved.
- Take out your spiritual heart and look at it. Have you been born again?

3. **Confess your sin, turn to Jesus, and receive a new heart (John 3:5; 8; 10)**

- What do the two terms, "water" and "spirit" refer to in Jesus' response to Nicodemus in John 3? Read Ezekiel 36:25-26 to find out how Nicodemus would have understood these familiar terms.
- How do you know if your old heart has been transplanted with a new spiritual heart? Look back at Ezekiel 36:27 and compare with John 3:8 to understand more about the evidence of salvation.
- Take out your spiritual heart and look at it. Have you received a new heart?

Imagine holding your old spiritual heart in your hands. What does it look like? If it's the same as the one you're looking at, then you need a transplant.

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that men and women in your friend group, in your families, in your neighborhood, and in your Community Group would Admit, Believe, and Confess in order to be born again.
- Are you born again? If not, ask your group to pray with you right now!

