



Next Week's Life Group: Acts 2:1-13

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect and grow with God and with others through relationships; growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus. Life Groups are loving, safe and interactive; a place where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others to inspire a culture of discipleship as we do life together. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



HOLY SPIRIT

MAY WEEK 13
MAY 12-13, WEEK 4

**LIFE
GROUPS
GUIDE**

Holy Spirit

Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

John 3:5-6

Getting Started: What age do you wish you could permanently be, and why?

Context: When Jesus was in Jerusalem for Passover He attracted the attention of Jewish leaders when He forced the money changers and vendors from the temple with a whip. Psalm 69 contains prophecy for this event; "I have become estranged from my brothers and an alien to my mother's sons. For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me" (Psalm 69:8-9). This disruption of the operation of the temple by Jesus demanded a response by the Sanhedrin. They were the Jewish ruling body with jurisdiction over civil and religious matters in Judea under the authority of Rome. They challenged Jesus by demanding "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" (John 2: 18). Jesus' response was to point to His coming death and resurrection that would demonstrate that He had life in himself and that He had power to lay it down and take it up again. To the Jews, only God had such life and such authority. One of the members of the Sanhedrin was a man named Nicodemus. Since the Sanhedrin was primarily comprised of members of Jewish aristocracy, Nicodemus was a notable member of Jewish society. His name means conqueror of the people. We aren't told whether or not Nicodemus was in the temple as a witness when Jesus purged it, but he certainly would have heard a detailed report of the event. Our story passages will explore three glimpses into the life of Nicodemus.



Story/Passage: John 3:1-21, 7:50-52, 19:40

You Must Be Born Again

Head Level

These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.



- What does John tell us about Nicodemus?
- What stands out to you about Nicodemus in his first private encounter with Jesus, the time that he challenged the Sanhedrin (John 7:50-52), and later, when he helped to bury Jesus (John 19:40)?

Heart Level

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.



- How have your fears and insecurities impacted how you approach Jesus, or how you witness to his greatness?
- Who is Jesus to you; a teacher sent from God or Messiah sent to save the world?
- What does it mean to be "born of the Spirit"? What does it mean in your own life?

Hands Level

These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.



- What changes have taken place in you since your first private encounter with Jesus?
- What facilitates your sensitivity to and growth in the Holy Spirit? How do you make space for this in your life?