

# STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## LESSON 4 - JOHN CHAPTER 3

### ASSIGNMENT

READ John chapter 3. Read it again as you study each part. Notice how Jesus showed that He is the Savior.

MEMORIZE John 3:16,

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

### KEY WORDS

The key words in this chapter are **believe** and **live**.

### OUTLINE OF JOHN CHAPTER 3

- A. Visit with Nicodemus, John 3:1-21.
  - 1. Nicodemus, John 3:1-2.
  - 2. Jesus and Nicodemus talk together, John 3:3-21.
    - a. New birth, John 3:3-8.
    - b. Faith, John 3:14-18.
    - c. Love of God, John 3:16.
    - d. Judgment of God, John 3:17-19.
    - e. Light and darkness, John 3:19-21.
- B. The testimony of John the Baptist, John 3:22-36.
  - 1. John's ministry, John 3:23-30.
  - 2. Jesus must be greater, John 3:30.
  - 3. We must believe the true witness, John 3:31-36.

### LOOKING AT JOHN CHAPTER 3

- A. **Visit with Nicodemus**, John 3:1-21.
  - 1. **Nicodemus**, John 3:1,2.

**Who Nicodemus is**, John 3:1.

There are many different people in the world. There are good people and bad people. Some people have much learning and some have very little learning. Yet they

all need the same thing - peace with God.

To which group of people did Nicodemus belong? John 3:1

Nicodemus seemed to be a good man. He was very religious.

Nicodemus was also a \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:1.

He taught religion. To teach others, he had to know the Scriptures well, John 3:10.

**What Nicodemus desire was.** John 3:2.

Even though Nicodemus was a good man, he still looked for peace with God. Today many people look for peace.

We do not really know why Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Maybe he did not want others to see him. Many people today are afraid others will see them come to Jesus. Maybe this was the only time Nicodemus could be alone with Jesus.

Nicodemus must have watched and listened to Jesus in the temple. No other person could do the miracles Jesus did. Jesus spoke differently too. Nicodemus thought Jesus could answer his questions. He wanted what Jesus had. He wanted peace with God.

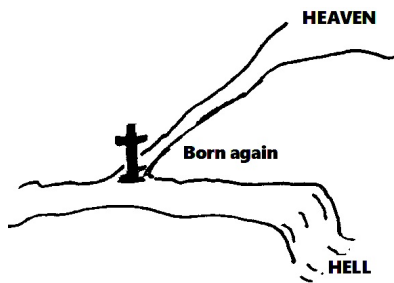
Nicodemus came to Jesus. Jesus knew what he wanted.

What does John 2:25 tell us?

**2. Jesus and Nicodemus talk together,** John 3:3-21.

**a. New birth,** John 3:3-8.

Jesus knew that Nicodemus wanted something better than just religion. Jesus knew that he was looking for a happier life. The only way Nicodemus could have a happier life was to receive a new life. This is true for every person in the world. This is true for you and me. We must all receive a new life, which is to be born again.



**1) Why we must be born again,** John 3:3,5.

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? John 3:3,5

What does Romans 3:10-18,23 tell us?

What does Mark 7:21-23 tell us?

These things cannot go to heaven, Revelation 21:27. Therefore, we must be born with lives that do not do these things.

**2) How we are born again, John 3:6,8.**



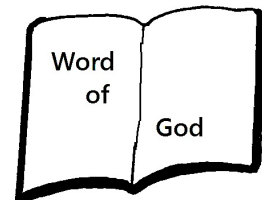
Who works this birth

What does He use to work this new birth? Ephesians 5:26

We cannot understand how a child is made within his mother and is born. Even so, we cannot understand how the Holy Spirit can take the Word of God within us and make us new people. Jesus uses the wind to picture this.

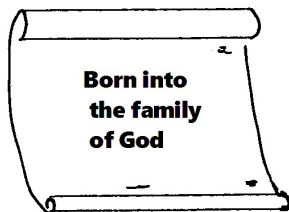
What did He say? John 3:8

We hear the Word of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand it. We see that we are sinners. We see the great love of God for us. We see Jesus died for our sins. Then we believe Jesus Christ died for our sins. After this the Holy Spirit changes our lives completely.



What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say?

**3) What happens when we are born again?**



**Eternal life.**

When we are born again we become new people. What happens to our old sinful desires? 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are made \_\_\_\_\_ because of what Christ has done for us. 2  
Corinthians 5:21.

What else do we have when we are born again? Romans 5:1

When we are born again, we are born into the family of God, John 1:12. There is one other thing that we can know.

1 John 5:13 tells us that we can know

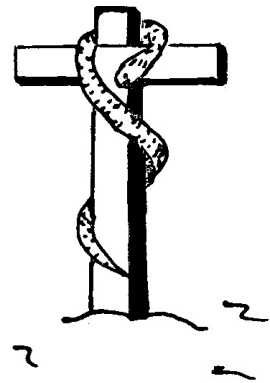
**b. Faith, John 3:14-18. What faith is.**

What does Hebrews 11:1 tell us faith is?

Can we say that faith is really believing what God says?

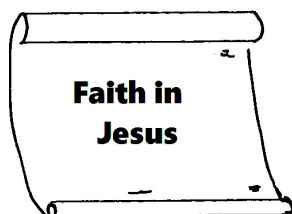
Look at verse 14. Jesus tells us about a snake that was put on a pole by Moses. Let us see what He is talking about.

Read Numbers 21:4-9 What happened here?



Those who believed what Moses said, looked at the snake on the pole. They were healed. They had faith that they would be healed. Those who refused to look tried some other way. They died because they did not believe.

**Result of faith, John 3:15,16.**



What should we do when we see that we are dying because of our sin? What should we do when we see that we are not going to be with Jesus in heaven? Many people have faith in their churches. Many have faith in doing good things for others. Many have faith in other things. The Bible tells us we are to have

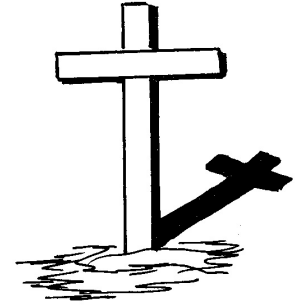
faith in Jesus Christ and in Him only. What will we receive when we believe in Jesus Christ?

John 3:15,16.

**c. Love of God, John 3:16.**

We can never say all there is to say about the love of God. It is too big for us to understand. Many people try to tell us about love. They give us only a little idea of what love is.

How did God show His love? John 3:16



What does Romans 5:8 tell us?

**d. Judgment of God, John 3:17,18.**

God sees the sinful things we do. God is righteous. Because He is righteous, He must punish sin. Jesus was punished for our sin so that we would not have to be punished for it. If we do not believe that Jesus was punished for our sin, we will have to be punished for it.

**e. Light and darkness, John 3:19-21.**

**1) What light is.**

We cannot say what light is. All we can do is tell what light does. What does the light we see around us do?



Light from God does much the same thing. It helps us see the things of God. It helps us understand what God is saying to us. It helps us see the right way to go. It helps us stay away from sin and bad things, Psalm 119:105. Light is a picture of truth and righteousness.



Who is light? John 8:12

**2) What darkness is.**

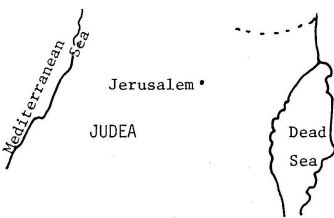


When we think of darkness, what do we think about?

Darkness is a picture of sin.

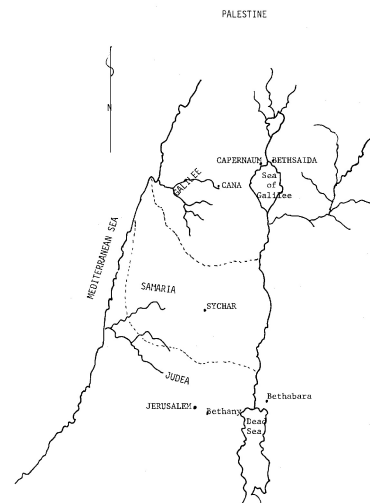
- 3) **Why men would rather have darkness.** Darkness hides many bad things. We would think that people would want to stay away from it. Yet, they don't stay away from it. Why? What does John 3:19-21 tell us?

**B. The testimony of John the Baptist, John 3:22-36.**



Where did Jesus go when He left Jerusalem? John 3:22

Who was with Jesus? John 3:22



What were His disciples doing?

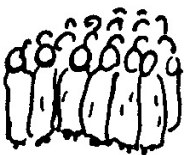
Did Jesus baptize people? John 4:2

His disciples baptized people.

Some of the Jews asked the disciples of John about making things clean which they used for eating and drinking. The Jews thought this was more important than to be clean from sin. The baptism of John showed them that they needed to be clean from sin.

**1. John's ministry.**

The followers of John loved him. They thought he was the greatest teacher that ever lived. One day they noticed that the people were starting to follow Jesus. How did the disciples of John feel about this?



**Jesus**



**John**

Would we feel the same way if we were in their place? John knew that his disciples would leave him. The disciples of John asked him about Jesus.

What did John tell them? John 3:27

John said that God gave him his work to do. God gave Jesus His work to do. John was happy about this.

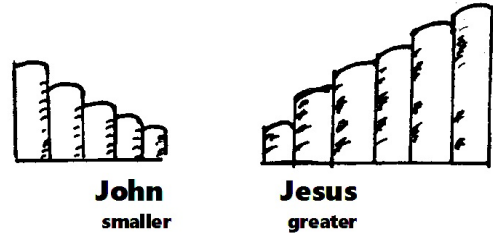
What did John picture himself to be like? John 3:29

The work of the friend of the bridegroom was important. The friend would help the bridegroom get his bride. The work of John was important. He was to get things ready for Jesus to get His Bride, the Church.

**2. Jesus must be greater, John 3:30**

What did John mean when he said,

*“He must become more important. I must become less important.”* John 3:30 (N.L.T.)



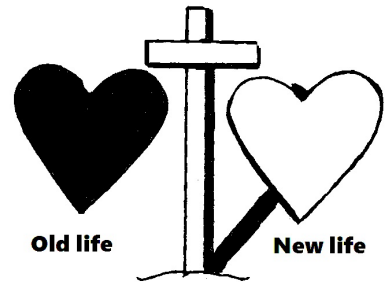
John said Jesus was to be the greatest. This is true in our lives as Christians. We are not great, it is Jesus Who is great.

**3. We must believe the true witness, John 3:31-36.**

John said that Jesus came from (John 3:31).

Jesus was to tell

(John 3:32).



Were the people going to believe what Jesus said?

John 3:32

What will happen to those who put their trust in Jesus Christ?

John 3:36

What about those who will not put their trust in Jesus Christ?

### IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

1. Every person needs a new life.
2. Only the Holy Spirit can give this new life to us. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to show us that we need a new life. He shows that this new life comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ must be greater than we are.
4. Jesus Christ came from heaven.

### WORDS TO LEARN

1. desire - to wish for something.
2. faith - to think that what someone says or does is true and right.  
- to believe that which we do not see or understand.
3. judge - to hear and then make up one's mind what is to be done.
4. judgment - making up one's mind what is to be done.  
- Bible uses it also to mean 'God's punishment for sin.'
5. punish - to cause pain or loss for doing wrong.
6. refuse - to say "no."
7. result - that which we get because of something that happened. Example - We study hard and as a result we get good marks.
8. testimony - what a witness says about something he knows.
9. witness - to tell what we have seen and heard.  
- one who tells what he has seen and heard.

### Lesson 4 - Review

#### True or False.

1. Nicodemus was a good religious leader, but he was not satisfied. T F
2. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant when He said, "You must be born again." T F
3. That which is born of the Spirit can go to heaven. T F
4. John the Baptist said that Jesus must not become greater than himself. T F
5. Some of John's disciples were not happy when they saw many people going to Jesus. T F
6. The Holy Spirit gives us new life. T F



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| 7.  | All men like to come to the Light.          | T F |
| 8.  | God will not punish us because He loves us. | T F |
| 9.  | We can understand how we are born again.    | T F |
| 10. | Faith is truly believing what God says.     | T F |

**Fill in the blanks.**

11. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ before we can go to heaven.
12. The snake on the pole is a picture of Jesus on the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Light is a picture of \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Darkness is a picture of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. John the Baptist was like a \_\_\_\_\_ to the bridegroom.
16. Faith means \_\_\_\_\_.

**Write out:**

17. John 3:16

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