

GROUP GUIDE

CHURCH NAME

SERIES TITLE

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

JOHN 3:1-8

DATE

MAIN POINT

You can't follow Jesus' demands unless you have been born again.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

The title of this series is "What Jesus Demands from the World." So what do you think Jesus demands from the world?

Why is this an important question to answer?

Jesus is Lord. This was the earliest confession of the church, and in making it we pledge our allegiance to Him above all. Because He is the Lord, Jesus has the right to demand whatever He wishes from the world, and as His followers, we must be prepared to meet those demands with a resounding "yes." But what exactly does Jesus demand? First and foremost, Jesus demands that we be born again, because without new birth, we cannot follow Jesus' demands at all.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 28:18-20.

How do you understand Jesus' demand to make disciples?

If explaining to friends, what would you tell them about Jesus' promise to be with us always? How is that promise connected with Jesus' demand?

Jesus' final command to His followers was to "teach them to observe all my commandments." The wording of the statement is key, because you can teach a parrot all of Jesus' commandments, but you cannot teach a parrot to observe them. Teaching people to parrot all that Jesus commanded is easy. Teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded is impossible. That's why first and foremost people must be born again.

WATCH THE VIDEO TEACHING FOR SESSION 1 FROM JOHN PIPER.

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What about the video clip resonated with you the most?

Think back to the second half of the Great Commission. Why is it essential that we understand the difference between teaching Jesus' commands, and teaching people to observe Jesus' commands?

What does it mean to you to "speak, teach, and pray in such a way that people actually do what Jesus commands"?

As Dr. Piper said, Scripture doesn't just command believers to inform others of all the commandments but instead to speak, teach, and pray in such a way that people actually do what Jesus commands. Of course, without being born again, not only will we never do what Jesus demands of us; we will actually hate His commands.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 3:1-8.

Picture this scene in your mind. What do you think surprised or confused Nicodemus about Jesus' teaching?

What are your thoughts on the two categories given to people in the video?

What are some false reasons why people assume they will participate in the coming kingdom?

Why is being "born again" an appropriate description to describe what Jesus requires?

We often use terms like "being saved" or having "a personal relationship with Jesus Christ" to describe being born again. Jesus used this expression, though, to emphasize the dramatic change that happens to someone who has been given this gift. Just as they were first born by flesh, they were born with fleshly appetites, fleshly desires, and fleshly ways of thinking. They are living dead people. But in the new birth, people become truly alive, not just in body but in spirit, for the Spirit of God gives birth to our spirits.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How does this discussion change the way you will present the truth of the gospel to someone?

Why does understanding new birth set the stage for examining the rest of the demands of Jesus?

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What are some ways we can keep the demands of Jesus connected to the person and work of Jesus in our hearts?

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to open up your hearts and minds to what He has to teach you in this study. Pray also that God would teach your group the magnitude of what it means to be born again.

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