

FROM DEATH TO LIFE WEEK 1

Discussion & Reflection Questions

John 3:1-17 / Romans 4:1-5, 14-17

1. Observing the Text

1. What stands out to you most about Nicodemus in John 3?
2. Why do you think John includes the detail that Nicodemus came to Jesus “at night”?
3. What do you notice about the difference between Nicodemus’ questions and Jesus’ answers?
4. In Romans 4, what surprises you about Paul’s description of Abraham’s faith?

2. Understanding the Message

5. What do you think Jesus means by “born from above”? How is that different from self-improvement?
6. Why is it difficult for sincere, religious people to hear that they need new birth?
7. What is the difference between *behavior modification* and *new creation*?
8. Why does Paul emphasize trust over works when describing righteousness?

3. Reflecting Personally

9. Where in your life might you be “walking the road” faithfully but still sensing something unfinished?
10. Have you ever equated spiritual maturity with:
 - Having all the answers?
 - Avoiding visible struggle?
 - Managing your doubts privately?
11. In what ways might you be trying to control your spiritual life instead of receiving it?
12. When have you experienced faith as something alive and Spirit-driven rather than managed and controlled?

4. Exploring the Tension: Control vs. Receiving

13. Why is spiritual control so appealing?
14. What fears might drive someone to manage their faith rather than surrender to the Spirit?

15. What would it look like this week to move from control to trust in one specific area of your life?

5. Application: Living as “Born from Above”

16. What practical habits help you remain dependent on the Spirit rather than self-reliant?

17. How can obedience flow from life instead of becoming a way to earn life?

18. If new birth is a posture and not just a one-time event, how can we cultivate that posture daily?

6. For Families with Kids/Teens

19. What does it mean to “receive” something instead of earning it?

20. Why do you think it’s hard to admit we need help, even from God?

21. How can we remind each other that being alive in Christ isn’t about being perfect?

7. Closing Reflection

If Jesus said to you today, “You must be born from above,” what part of your life would that invitation touch first?

Spirit of God, help us stop trying to manufacture life. Teach us to receive it.