

# Misunderstood Messiah: The Gospel of John

## Misunderstood Birth

JOHN 3:1-15

### CORE TRUTH

Week of February 22, 2026

**New birth is not about becoming a better version of ourselves—it is about receiving an entirely new life from God.**

**WELCOME** to remind us why we're here.

🕒 Spend about 5 minutes here.

**Mission** – To become more like Jesus – together.

**Vision** – We work out our salvation side-by-side—with honesty, humility, and hope. We walk with one another, not just to talk about Jesus, but to be transformed by him. (Philippians 2:12-13)

**Guidelines** – Our Group Guidelines help us live out our mission and vision with kindness and humility. We encourage you to read and discuss the guidelines together regularly—they can be found on the last page.

**HEAD** to help us examine what the word shows and let in what's true.

🕒 Spend about 10 minutes here.

- What stands out to you in the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus?
- What feels most unexpected about what Jesus says in this conversation?

**HEART** to help us wrestle with what we believe and be with each other in it.

🕒 Spend about 30 minutes here.

- Nicodemus was deeply religious, disciplined, and respected, but Jesus tells him he still needs entirely new life. Where do you rely on effort, knowledge, or discipline to feel secure in your relationship with God?
- Jesus describes new birth as something the Spirit brings—like the wind, moving beyond our control. What makes it difficult for you to release control and receive what God gives you?
- What would it look like for you to trust God to give life, rather than trying to create it on your own?

**HANDS** to help us live out the truth with the Spirit as we go out into the world.

🕒 Spend about 15 minutes here.

- **Meditate on the following reflection now and throughout the week:** Jesus, where am I trying to control and produce what only you can give me?
- **Use the following prayer based on Psalms 127 to close your time together:**

Unless you build the house oh Lord, we who build it labor in vain.

It is in vain that we rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;

For you give to your beloved sleep. Allow us to rest in the new life you build in us. Amen.

### LEADER RESOURCES

• [Weekly Leader Video](#) • [Bible Project John Part 1](#) • [Why The Gospel of John Is Special](#) • [Tim Keller Podcasts on John](#) •

### NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE

John 3:22-36

GROUPS





## DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open, and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We want to value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after one person shares and before the next person shares gives the person sharing a chance to finish. A pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, to gather their thoughts in order to share, and to genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

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