

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of October 11, 2020

MY STORY

Hypothetically speaking.....You've been pulled over by a cop for speeding. He asks for your driver's license and you don't have it. What happens next? Why?

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What credentials do people usually give to get into heaven?
What do the following scriptures say about this?

Psalm 51:5

Jer. 17:9

Rom. 3:10-18

2. Nicodemus' religious credentials were **very impressive**.

- Why didn't Jesus mention them?
- Why are our religious credentials not enough for God?

Isa. 64:6

1 Peter 1:17-19

3. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be "born again."

- How is this different from "turning over a new leaf"?
- How does the need to be born again show the folly of the Pharisees' extreme focus on obedience

4. Kirk said that mankind is ignorant of this truth.

- Is it hard for you to believe that God desires an internal transformation in your life rather than external conformity? Why?

- What evidence will exist in the life of a person who has been born again?

1 Jn. 2:3-6, 3:24, 4:7, 13

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus' words to Nicodemus are a message of hope to sinners. Can you think of someone to share that message with?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- _____
- _____



Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionaries of the Month Please pray for Ryan and Julie Christian, as they seek to provide counsel and encouragement to missionaries throughout the world.

Baptism services will be held Sunday, October 18th. Contact the church office if you are interested in being baptized.

The Gospel of John---That You May Believe *Credentials*

John 2:23-3:15 (ESV) Kirk Greenstreet October 11, 2020

Proper Credentials Provide Admittance

We understand having proper credentials—a badge, a diploma, user names, passwords, a ticket, a passport. God requires the *proper credential* for admittance to *Heaven*.

I Jesus Knows the _____ in Man

He knows our hearts—what's really inside us.

II Nicodemus has the best _____ Credentials

Our religious credentials are not sufficient.

III “Born Again” is the only Sufficient _____

Salvation requires a radical remaking by which we are inwardly made new.

IV Jesus' teaching on the _____

It is *spiritual.....supernatural....sovereign*

V Mankind is _____ of this Truth

In our spiritual darkness, we only know *earthly* truth. Jesus came from heaven, to reveal to us *heavenly* truth.

VI Jesus is the _____ of the New Birth

Moses lifted up a serpent. God lifted up His Son.