

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of October 11, 2020

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## 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 Reality in Man

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

#### II Nicodemus has the best Religious Credentials

Our religious credentials are not sufficient.

#### III “Born Again” is the only Sufficient Credential

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

#### IV Jesus' teaching on the New Birth

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

#### V Mankind is Ignorant 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 Source of the New Birth

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