



Have You Been Born Again?

Robert Morris

Focus The most important, game-changing question you can ask yourself is: “Have I been born again?” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Open What is your favorite game to watch or play? Sports? Chess? Backgammon? Board Games? Cards? Mahjong? Video games?

Read In John 3:1–7, Jesus talked to a man named Nicodemus about salvation. As a Jewish Pharisee, Nicodemus was a devoutly religious man. He believed in God, attended synagogue, prayed, read and memorized large portions of Scripture, fasted twice a week and tithed. His encounter with Jesus revealed that he even believed in Jesus. Yet with all of Nicodemus’ religious practices, Jesus’ word to Nicodemus, and to each of us, is: “You **must** be born again.”

Many people think they *have* been born again, but they really haven’t (Matthew 7:13–14). Some people mentally believe in God, but they’ve never been born again because they haven’t submitted their lives to God. Others believe growing up in church or being active in God’s work means they have been born again (Matthew 7:21–23).

We’re so thankful that God’s Word says we *can know* if we have truly been born again (1 John 5:13). We’re born again when we give God control of our lives. God moves in and changes our hearts. We want to follow Him and do what’s right, and we no longer feel the need to try to change ourselves. For some of us, we may not remember the exact date we were born again, but we remember the event because it was when our life radically changed.

Talk

1. Pastor Robert compares being born again (spiritual birth) to physical birth. Conception is when we first realize we are sinners and need a Savior. Pregnancy is the time period when God is preparing our hearts. It can be a miserable time because we are not yet walking with God, but we know we need to, and for some of us, this process can take many years. Spiritual birth takes place when we fully surrender our lives to God. Tell the group your process of being born again. If you are not yet born again, talk about where you are in the process.
2. What was the biggest change that took place in your life when you gave control to God?
3. Have you ever struggled with knowing if you are saved? How did you resolve this?
4. Do you have a friend or family member who is in the spiritual “pregnancy” stage of being born again (see question 1)? Pray together as a group for loved ones who are not yet born again.

Live

Begin each day this week by thanking Jesus for giving His life on the cross for your salvation. As an act of humility, yield to Him anew all that you are—your will, decisions, words, thoughts, emotions, body, relationships, your past, present and future. Praise Him for the radical transformation He has brought to your life.

Pray

Dear Lord, thank You for drawing us to know You. Thank You that we can know we have eternal life. Thank You for this great adventure of walking with You. In Jesus' name, Amen!