



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: The Indispensable Ingredient

DATE: May 9, 2021

PASSAGE: John 3:1-18

SPEAKER: Pastor Brian Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Did you know any of the families who were dedicating their children to the Lord in the services this past Sunday?
- When did your family come to this country and from where?

Spend some time praying for these families. Pray that these young children would come to see and experience God's grace early in life and that their parents would model a life of faithfully following Jesus by God's Spirit.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- Review the narrative of Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus found in John 3:1-21. Watch this 10-minute clip from The Chosen to see the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2XlUK9VgA>
How is Nicodemus portrayed? What was Jesus inviting him to?
The rest of season 1 of The Chosen shows more of Nicodemus' story and other invitations Jesus made in the gospels to potential disciples. These would be great episodes to watch and discuss as a group or family. Season 1 episodes are available for free on The Chosen's YouTube channel.
- How do you think Nicodemus came away from this conversation with Jesus?
See also John 7:50-52 and John 19:39.
- How would you define "born again" to someone who has never heard the phrase? How did Jesus explain it?
See John 1:13; John 3:36; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; and 1 Peter 1:3, 23 to gather more biblical descriptions from John, Paul and Peter.
- What does Jesus claim about himself in John 3:13-15? How does the "snake in the desert" illustrate what he came to do?
See Numbers 21:4-9 for the narrative of Moses and the snake in the wilderness.
- Revisit some of the definitions that Pastor Brian gave of the "indispensable ingredient" of grace on the Missional Journey. How would you define grace in your own words?
*"God does not give us the punishment and condemnation that we deserve, but rather He gives us his mercy, kindness and goodness."
"Grace in unmerited favor." "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more or less." "Grace is God's love poured out on us."
"GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense" These have all been used as definitions of grace. Which of them stick out as particularly helpful to your understanding of grace?*
- **From John 3:16-18, what stands out to you about God and what he wants you to do? How is a person condemned? From John 3:15-21, how will belief show itself?**
- **Who is someone in your life who needs to experience grace? How will you intentionally pursue him or her with God's grace this week?**
If your group is keeping a communal "not giving up on" list, use this list as your first stop for people to seek out with grace intentionally this week.

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Visit the resource page on our website to find ideas on how to Faithfully Follow Jesus this week. [Go there](https://woodlandschurch.org/resources/) individually, as a group, or both! Spur each other on to love and good deeds.
(Here's the url: <https://woodlandschurch.org/resources/>)