



## ***That you may believe...*** **Study Lesson Week 3**

**This week's title:** The Bringer of New Birth - **John 3:1-21**

**Highlighted verse:** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* - **John 3:16**

### **Day 1: Read John 3:1-21**

1. Read **John 3:1-21** at least once, jotting down initial observations.

### **Day 2: Read John 3:1-13 along with Ephesians 2:1-9, Genesis 2:16-17, and Ezekiel 36:24-27**

*Another study method which may prove helpful to you is that of identifying repeated words and/or phrases in a passage. In Biblical times, there were no punctuation marks. Therefore, to emphasize that something being written/said was important, it was repeated. In this passage we are studying this week, Jesus repeats the phrase "I tell you the truth" (other translations say "Truly, truly, I say to you"). This means that what Jesus is saying is very important. The phrases are related. Repeated words give hints as to a possible main thoughts/themes. In this passage some form of the word "believe" is used seven times. What might that tell you about Jesus' words/thoughts?*

1. How do you understand born again in **3:3-8**? It has been said that Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture. Read **Ephesians 2:1-9**. How do these verses in Ephesians help us understand the need to be born again?

2. Nicodemus struggled to understand the need to be born again.

a) Keeping in mind that Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling council, why do you think he struggled with the need to be born again?

b) Read **Genesis 2:16-17** (and consider chapter 3 of Genesis) and read **Ezekiel 36:24-27**. As a scholar of Scripture, should Nicodemus have had a better understanding of the need to be born again?

## John Study Lesson 3

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### Day 3: Read John 3:14-21

1. For what purpose did God send Jesus? (**John 3:16-21**)
2. In the beginning of chapter three John emphasizes the need to be born again. The word believe(s) appears several times in **verses 15-18**. What is the relationship between being born again and believing? Why does being born again come before believing in chapter 3 (**verses 1-21**)?

### Day 4: Read John 20:31

1. Consider how **John 3:1-21** relates to John's purpose in writing this Gospel. "...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (**John 20:31**). From **John 3:1-21** what are we to believe?
2. How does this passage, **John 3:1-21**, unfold the meaning of "life in his name"?

### Day 5: Read John 3:1-21

1. Consider **verses 3:18-21**. These verses emphasize the importance of our personal response to Jesus Christ. How would you describe your response to him? How does your response involve both belief and a change in behavior?
2. When you read these verses think of family members and friends that you care about. If some of these people do not believe in Jesus what good news could you share with them?