

Lesson 5 **The Conversation with Nicodemus**

**Objective:** To learn that we enter the Kingdom of God and become God's Children only through "new birth" (born again).

**Background:** Soon after Jesus began His ministry, He and some disciples (John 1:35-51) joined Thousands and thousands of pilgrims, who went to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover (See Lesson 30, background for the feast). While in Jerusalem, Jesus clashed with the leaders (politicians) of the Jews when He cleansed the temple because they turned the temple, a place of worship, into a marketplace. (John 2:13-22)

**Instruction:** Read carefully John 2:13-28; John 3:1-16 as if you were with Jesus.

**Let's Think:**

1. It was late in the evening, a man named Nicodemus, a "VIP" of the Jews came to see Jesus. Who was this man? (John 3:1-10) What nice thing did he say to Jesus when he entered the house? (John 3:2 also John 2:23)

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2. Jesus obviously knew why Nicodemus came so He told Nicodemus straight that the only way To enter the Kingdom of God is to be "born again". How many times did Jesus say it during the conversation? (John 3:3-8)

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3. Was Nicodemus surprised when he heard the words "born again"? How did he misunderstand Jesus' word? (John 3:4, 7)

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4. To correct Nicodemus' misunderstanding, Jesus explained to him being “born again” is all about:
- a) How many kinds of "birth" did Jesus point out to Nicodemus?  
To which one does "born again" belong? (John 3:6)

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b) Who alone can give a person "new birth and make him a child of God (John 3:6,8)

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Jesus said that we don't know or understand how “new birth” takes place (happens) but just as we don't see the wind; we do see the effect or evidence of the new birth – a new person (John 3:8, 2Corinthians 5:17).

5. At the end Jesus compares His coming death on the cross to Moses' lifting up a brazen serpent, an Old Testament story known by every Jew (John 3:14). Because of Jesus' death on the cross, who can have “eternal life” (which means to enter the Kingdom of God or go to heaven) and experience “new birth”? How? (John 3:15-16)

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6. Review Lessons 1-5 (Objective and Scripture memory) and tell how you would help a friend to Experience “new birth” and become God's child.

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**Let's Remember:** Jesus answered Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:13)