

Message-based Study

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Connection

What is something you are looking forward to in your Easter celebration this year?

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

***When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the crowd shouted,
"Hosanna! Come quickly, Lord, and save us!"
They had no idea the depth to which they needed saving...***

An Old Testament Scene

1. As the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, the Lord wanted them to grow in their faith by learning greater dependance on Him, but they were resistant to this. A hard lesson is required when there is hardness of heart. What experience did God orchestrate for them to learn this in Numbers 21:4-7 and how did they respond?

How were the snakes a reminder of the snake-bitten condition of mankind which began in Genesis 3?

2. What solution did God provide for them in Numbers 21:8-9? And what questions do you think this provoked in their minds?

A New Testament Conversation

3. Fast forward 1300 years... Nicodemus was a religious man who had many unanswered questions as he observed Jesus' life. He was curious, but confused about how Jesus fit into God's plan. Can you relate? What unanswered questions do you have about Jesus?

4. Read John 3:1-2. What evidence of God had Nicodemus seen in Jesus' life?

What evidences of God have you seen in Jesus as you have read the Bible's account of His life?

5. In verse 3, Jesus uses the analogy of birth to teach a deep truth to Nicodemus. When a baby is born there is **new life** and a **child becomes part of a family**. In the same way, the spirit-part of each person needs to be “born again.” Read vs. 3-8. What do you think Jesus is conveying through this analogy about:

- **new life**

- **becoming a child of God**

Read John 3:9-15. Jesus uses another illustration in verses 14-15 to help further clarify what He is explaining to Nicodemus. Below, draw the two things He is comparing:

Add some words to your illustration above, answering:

- How did both bronze serpent “save” a person?
- How does Jesus’ death on the cross save a person?

Commitment

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday He knew that He would soon be lifted up on the cross. In John 3:16 Jesus explains to Nicodemus what He would be doing on that cross. It’s a familiar verse, but look at it today with fresh eyes. Now that you understand the context of this verse and the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, write John 3:16 below in your own words:

Like Nicodemus, when you come face-to-face with Jesus you have to make a choice. Jesus invited Nicodemus to follow Him, and He invites you to as well.

Following Jesus means you trust Him for the forgiveness of your sins because of His sacrifice, and you make Him Lord of your life, saying, “God, this life that you gave me - I just want to give it back to you. You’re my forgiver, you’re my leader.”

If you have never done this before, consider if you should take that step today. (You can pray a simple prayer expressing what is in italics above.)

If you have already been “born again” in this way, ask yourself, “Am I growing in dependence on God?”

I will _____.



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Begin with prayer. Leading up to Easter, spend some focused time praying for friends who don’t yet know Jesus.