

Know. Share. Serve.

Week 1: Know

Weekly Summary: Nicodemus grew up believing the way to heaven was by obeying God. Even today, that's how most religious institutions operate. Be good, and God will be good to you. But when Nicodemus came to Jesus with his questions about God, Jesus gave him some surprising answers! Heaven isn't something gained by obedience. Heaven is something given to those who know Jesus.

- **Big Question:** "How can I be sure things will go well for me when I _____?"

- ❖ **John 3:1-2** – Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

- ❖ **John 3:3-4** – Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

- ❖ **John 3:5-6** – Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

- ❖ **John 3:7-8** – You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

- ❖ **John 3:9-13** – "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

- If you want to go to _____, listen to the one who came from _____.

- ❖ **John 3:14-15** – Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

➤ **Big Idea:** _____ Jesus, _____ Life ... _____ Jesus, _____ Life

❖ **John 17:3** – “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

❖ **2 Peter 3:18** – Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

➤ Don't be content simply to _____ _____!



❖ **Ephesians 4:14-15** – Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Digging Deeper

1. Why do you think so many self-professed Christians are leaving churches today? Who's at fault?
2. What faulty assumptions do works-righteous religions make about God? And about man?
3. Why is Jesus' picture of "birth" such a fitting one to use here?
4. Jesus claimed to have authority about God and heaven, because he is the God who came from heaven. What implications does this have about issues of heaven and hell? What about history? Sin? The validity of other religions?
5. What does it mean to *know* Jesus? What doesn't it mean? Are there any comforts to take from this? Any warnings?
6. Hebrews 10:24-25 give us a warning against non-congregational Christianity. Why is this so disastrous for faith?
7. What do the following passages teach us about how Christ-centered, Bible-believing congregations foster spiritual growth among their Christians?
 - Hebrews 13:7
 - Romans 15:14
 - Colossians 3:16
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - Galatians 6:2
 - Ephesians 4:32
 - James 5:16
 - James 5:19-20

Homework: Read Isaiah 12 to get ready for next week's message in our series *Know. Share. Serve.*