

Dgroup Discussion Guide for March 19, 2017

## What is the Gospel?

### Scripture: *John 3*

What is the Gospel?

Gospel - "*Eaunggelion*" meaning "good news"

In John 3, a Pharisee named Nicodemus approaches Jesus one night with the intention of confirming His identity as the Messiah. However, Jesus changes the topic of conversation and instead talks about how one can experience eternal life. He says in John 3:5, "***I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must all be born from above.'***" In changing the topic of conversation, Jesus indicates that this is what we should be focusing on; this is the real issue.

To explain what salvation is to Nicodemus, Jesus compares it to the wind—although we cannot physically see it, we are able to see the effects of its existence. When one is "born again," we do not see it working in his life, but we do see the results of its presence in that person's life. We don't see the process, but we do see the effects.

What do we need to do to become born again? John 3:14-15 says, "***As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.***" Numbers 21 talks about an instance when—due to His anger at their incessant grumbling—God sent poisonous snakes to the Israelite camp; the only way they would be healed of the bites was to look up at a bronze serpent that Moses held up. In the same way, Jesus was to be lifted up for his crucifixion, and the only way we can be saved of eternal damnation is to look up at Him. John 3:16-17 says, "***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.***"

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, "***For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.***" To fully understand the Gospel, we must first acknowledge our sinful nature, the very nature that keeps us from having a relationship with our Creator. Then, we must believe that He died for that sinfulness and that He rose again, showing His power over sin and death.

How, then, should we respond? Romans 10:9-10 says, ... ***if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for***

**with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** While the only prerequisite to salvation is belief, other acts—confession and baptism, for example—follow as outward expression of internal change.

### **APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Points to reflect on:

1. What does the Gospel mean to you personally?
2. What transformations/ changes has happened in you and in your life since you received Jesus as Lord and Savior?
3. Are you living your life as a "SAVED MAN" or do you continue to live in the past?
4. Do you agree that the Gospel is good news that need to be shared?
5. Name specific people who you know who needs to hear the Gospel. Start praying for an opportunity to share.

### **PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.