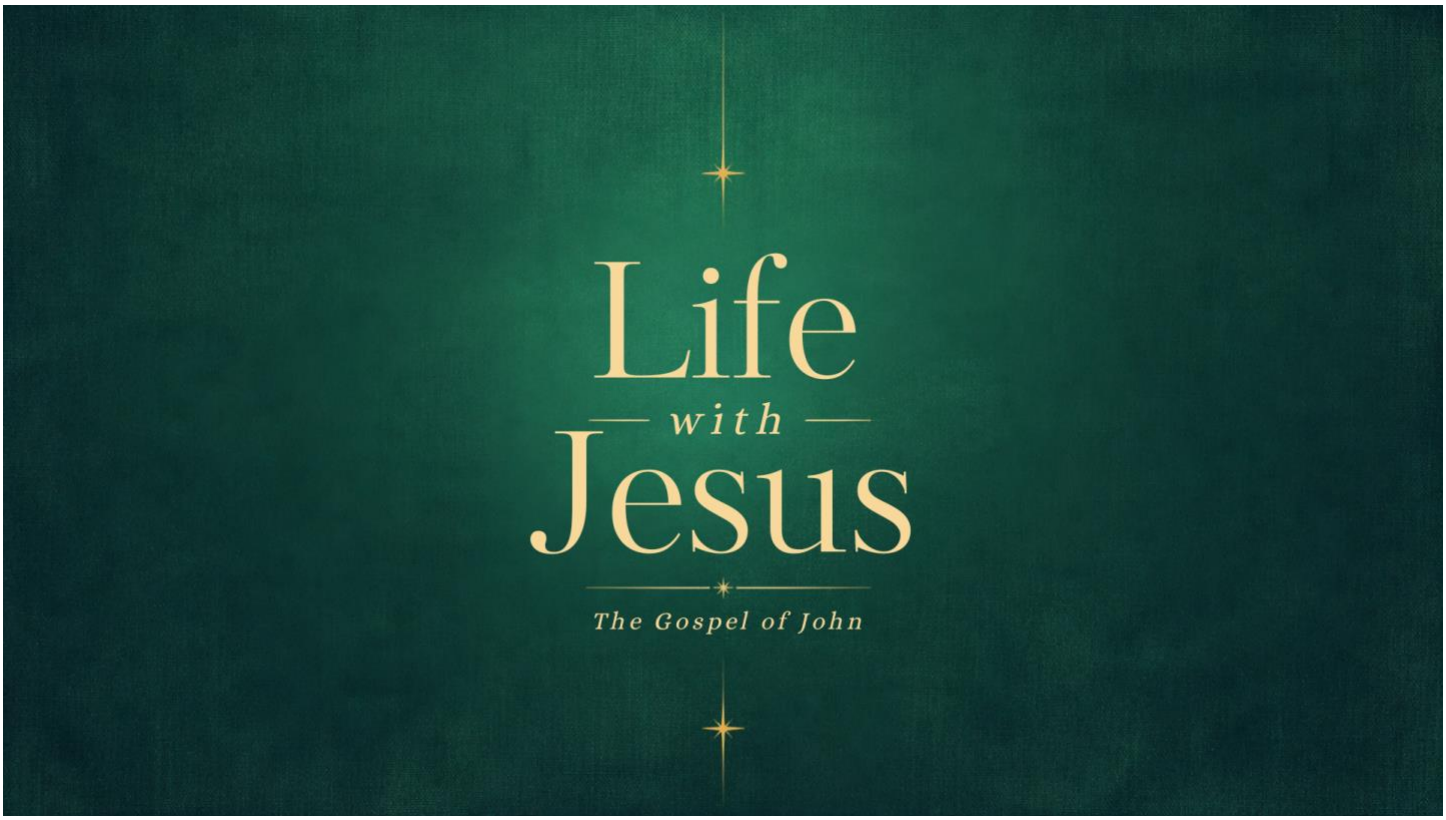

Born Again | John 3:1-36

This ministry year we begin an amazing new series on the Gospel of John called, "Life with Jesus" for our fall and spring semesters. The Gospel of John gives us a powerful understanding of the divine nature of Jesus, the Son of God for the purpose of believing and having eternal life and for the believer to be a witness to non-believers, standing firm in our faith in Christ Jesus our Lord & Savior.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

SPIRIT

1. How did the Spirit stir your mind or convict your heart from the sermon? Share with your group how the sermon moved in your heart, mind and soul and what response(s) you sense the Spirit moving you towards.

SCRIPTURE

1. Read John 3:1-36 in various translations and answer the following questions:

    a. **Reference John 3:3–8.** Nicodemus was religious, educated, and respected, yet Jesus told him, "You must be born again." What does Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus teach us about why religious knowledge, morality, or spiritual activity cannot produce the new life Jesus describes?

b. **Reference John 3:14–16 and Numbers 21:4–9.** Jesus compares His coming crucifixion to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness. What similarities do you see between these two events, and what does this illustration teach us about believing in Jesus for eternal life?

c. **Reference John 3:27–30.** John the Baptist responds to people leaving his ministry to follow Jesus by saying, "He must increase, but I must decrease.**"** What does John's response teach us about understanding our story and purpose in relation to Jesus?

SAINTS

1. Nicodemus had an impressive religious resume, but Jesus immediately confronted his need to be born again. What are some things people are tempted to trust in for salvation besides Christ? Have you faced these temptations in your past or are you currently struggling with them as you seek confirmation? Share with your group.

2. Everyone that has been born again has a "story". Do you know your story? Share with your group a 3–5-minute testimony of your story.

3. John the Baptist understood that his life was ultimately about pointing others towards Jesus. If someone asked you how they could know Jesus and receive eternal life, how would you use your story to point them to Jesus? Take a few minutes to practice bridging your story with Jesus' gospel invitation.

PRAYER

1. Seek the Spirit:
Ask the Holy Spirit to move on the hearts and minds of your group to enable spiritual maturity and group multiplication. Give the Spirit permission to call anyone, at any time, for anything, that advances the Gospel and makes disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. See a Need – Serve a Need:
Ask the Holy Spirit to give your group spiritual eyes that truly see the need to harvest souls for Jesus and the gospel opportunities at Cityview Bible Church to serve the body of Christ, our visitors and guests, our community and beyond. Ask the Spirit to stir your hearts to meet and serve those needs.

3. Step Up & Step Out:
Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your group when it is time for a member or members to step up to the next level of group leadership or step out to launch and birth a new group.