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## L. UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

### L.14 I know what it means to be born again.

John 3:1-16

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**A STORY** In my neighborhood, a lady decided to follow Jesus. Over a period of time through many challenges she grasped the truth of what the Bible said about Jesus. She believed it and experienced new birth. She was born again spiritually. You could see in her new hunger, new questions, new hope, peace, purpose, and joy. She experienced something new as her faith was fulfilled.

#### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE**

John 3:1-16

*Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He 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.”*

*<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” <sup>4</sup> “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!” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The 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.”*

*<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.*

*<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very 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. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”<sup>[g]</sup>*

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. Who met Jesus? What was his occupation?
2. Why do you think he came by night?
3. What did you discover about what Jesus meant when he said “You must be born again?”
4. How did Nikodemus respond?
5. By the end of the conversation did he understand?
6. How is God’s love connected to new spiritual birth?
7. What does it mean to believe in the son of God?
8. What will be the results from that belief?

**APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

9. When you read and understand this, do you know how to be born again?
10. What are the barriers of making that decision?
11. When will you decide to experience new birth and the promise of eternal life?
12. What steps can you take to carry out that decision?