SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 3

You Must Be Born Again

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 3:16 · NASB

"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."

A respected teacher comes to Jesus in the dark and is told he has to start over from above. Follow the chapter from that night to the Light, and from the new birth to the Son who makes it possible.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 3 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 3. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
born		
believe / believes / believed		
Light		
world		
Spirit		
must		

JOHN 3:1–8 Born from Above

1 OBSERVE

Who is Nicodemus, and when does he come (3:1–2)? What does he already believe about Jesus?

2 OBSERVE

What does Jesus say a man cannot do unless he is born again (3:3 and 3:5)?

3 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

What is the "water" in 3:5? Guzik lists five readings and gives Ezekiel 36:25–27 "the most weight (though it is a tough call)." Spurgeon rejects baptismal regeneration. Read Ezekiel 36:25–27. Why should "the teacher of Israel" (3:10) have known this?

4 APPLY

Jesus told a lifelong religious man, "You must be born again" (3:7). What have you leaned on to be right with God that is really your own effort?

JOHN 3:9–15 The Son of Man Lifted Up

5 OBSERVE

What Old Testament event does Jesus use to explain His death (3:14)? What is promised to whoever believes (3:15)?

6 INTERPRET

Read Numbers 21:4–9. What did a dying Israelite have to do to live? What does that teach about how a man is saved?

7 INTERPRET

The Son of Man "must" be lifted up (3:14). Find the other "must" statements in 3:7 and 3:30. What do the three have in common?

JOHN 3:16–21 Love and Light

8 OBSERVE

From 3:16–17, write down what God felt, what God did, why He did it, and for whom.

9 OBSERVE

According to 3:18, who is judged, and when?

10 INTERPRET

Why do men stay away from the Light (3:19–20)? Is the problem a lack of evidence?

11 APPLY

Nicodemus came by night. What part of your life have you kept in the dark, and what would coming to the Light look like this week?

JOHN 3:22–30 The Friend of the Bridegroom

12 OBSERVE

What complaint do John's disciples bring him (3:26), and what is his first answer (3:27)?

13 INTERPRET

John calls himself "the friend of the bridegroom" (3:29). What is the friend's job at a wedding, and why is John's joy "made full" when people leave him for Jesus?

14 APPLY

"He must increase, but I must decrease" (3:30). Where does Jesus need to increase and you decrease right now?

JOHN 3:31–36 The One from Above

15 OBSERVE

List what 3:31–35 says about the One who comes from above.

16 INTERPRET

What two outcomes does 3:36 set side by side, and what tense are the verbs? What does John use as the opposite of believing?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

17 WORD *anōthen* · G509 · again; from above

The word in 3:3 and 3:7 means both "again" and "from above" (see 3:31). Which did Nicodemus hear (3:4)? Which did Jesus mean?

18 WORD *monogenēs* · G3439 · only begotten, one of a kind

The same word is used of Isaac in Hebrews 11:17. Read Genesis 22:2. What did it cost the Father to give "His only begotten Son" (3:16)?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 3 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.