

LESSON 7

JESUS AND NICODEMUS, AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN'S REBIRTH

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
2. To understand what rebirth is, that Jesus is living water, and that God is spirit.
3. To worship God in spirit and truth.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'"

(John 3:5)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His word.
2. Ask God to help us follow His teachings so that He will bless us.
3. Ask God to use His Spirit to change us from within and to change our hearts so that we can be who He wants us to be.
4. Ask God to help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Nicodemus' question for Jesus (Jn 3:4)

2. Jesus responds (Jn 3:5-8)

- Receiving water baptism and Holy Spirit is necessary
- Prophecy of the Holy Spirit's coming
- Prophecy of the physical evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit

3. Nicodemus is baffled and Jesus explains further (Jn 3:9-21)

- God loves the whole world; God's plan of salvation is for all
- God gave His only Son to save the world from sin
- Salvation and eternal life are given to all who believe and obey God
- Those who choose not to believe will be condemned

4. Samaritan Woman (Jn 4:1-26)

5. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Water baptism and the Holy Spirit are both required to enter the kingdom of God. No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit (Jn 3:5).

6. Life Application—Worship God in spirit and truth

7. Activity—The Ticket



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Who Was Nicodemus?

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council. Pharisees took pride in trying to adhere not only to the laws in the Old Testament, but also to a various array of man-made laws. They were well respected by other Jews and enjoyed social, religious, and political power in the community. So, Nicodemus was considered one of Israel's rulers. He taught and made decisions based on the Mosaic laws and Jewish tradition.

Jesus and the Teachers of Israel

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and the other "teachers" in Israel because they emphasized outward, superficial obedience to rules and laws. They forgot that God wanted His people to worship and obey Him with their hearts. Jesus came and revealed who the true worshippers and children of God were. The Pharisees and other "teachers" of Israel were offended by Jesus' teachings and became jealous of His increasing popularity. They viewed Jesus as a threat because He undermined their authority. They criticized and mocked Jesus, trying to find fault in Him, and would not associate with Him.

Nicodemus' personal visit to Jesus was remarkable because it could have jeopardized his position and reputation among his peers. Whatever his intentions may have been, it was during this secret visit that Nicodemus learned a crucial lesson regarding the truth of salvation.



Reaching Out to Your Students

There is a connection between this lesson and lesson 4 (Jesus' baptism). In order to be saved, we must not only believe, repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit, but must also lead a life of prayer, attend services, take part in Holy Communion, and so on. Your students may ask why it is necessary to do all these things in order to be saved. Isn't believing in God and loving Him enough?

Remind your students that God commands us to do these things in order to be saved. Repeat to your students the steps of salvation: repent, be baptized, pray for the Holy Spirit, lead a holy life, and work for God. (The steps can vary.)

We have already discussed the important step of baptism. Jesus set an example by being baptized Himself. Receiving the Holy Spirit is another step and component of our salvation. Jesus stressed its importance: when we receive the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit will live in us and guide us; without it, it will be impossible to enter the kingdom of heaven. Like in baking, the final product won't be the same if a step in the recipe is missed. Are we willing to take that chance with our salvation? In order to enter the kingdom of God, we need to follow every one of the steps in God's plan of salvation.



Opener

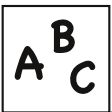
5 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the concept that we must have the Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

Materials: A bus ticket/pass, an airplane ticket/pass, a passport/visa, a customer number ticket (available at the supermarket meat department, post office, etc.), or any other appropriate ticket/pass

Instructions: Bring the items to class. Hold them up in class and ask the students to identify what they are. Ask them why a person would need these items (to gain admission somewhere, to get on a bus, to get a seat on a flight, to enter a country, to be helped in a store). Discuss what would happen if a person didn't have these items. What consequences would there be? (They wouldn't be able to get on the bus, get on the plane, enter the country, be helped until all the people with tickets are helped first, or they would lose their turn.)

Point out to the students that the Holy Spirit is also a ticket or a pass. Having it allows us to enter heaven. This was the important lesson that Nicodemus learned from Jesus during his visit. Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that we must have the Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.



Vocabulary

Pharisee: a member of a Jewish sect that flourished during 1st century BC and 1st century AD and that differed from the Sadducees chiefly in its strict observance of religious ceremonies and practices

esteem: to regard highly or favorably; to regard with respect or admiration

political: of or relating to governmental or public affairs of a state, municipality, etc.

Messiah: the promised and expected deliverer of the Jewish people



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Today we will read two stories regarding two characters that spoke with Jesus. One story is about a man called Nicodemus and the other about a woman of Samaria.

Let's open our Bibles and read John 3:1-8 together. [Ask two volunteers to read the passage. One will read the normal text, and the other the bold text. This can help highlight the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus.]

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Who was Nicodemus?

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council. Pharisees took pride in adhering not only to the laws of the Old Testament, but also to a various array of man-made laws as well. They were well respected by other Jews and enjoyed social, religious, and political power in the community. So, Nicodemus was considered one of Israel's rulers. He taught and made decisions based on the Mosaic laws and Jewish traditions.

Nicodemus had seen the miracles that Jesus had performed and had heard Him teach. He believed that Jesus was sent from God and wanted to go and talk to Him, but he waited for nighttime. **So why did Nicodemus come "by night" to see Jesus?** The Bible doesn't say why, but Nicodemus probably didn't want to be seen. Why do you think this was the case? Nicodemus was a highly esteemed religious and political leader. His fellow Pharisees were angry with Jesus and were looking for a way to destroy Him. Perhaps Nicodemus was afraid to go to Him in public during the day, as it may not have been very good for his reputation.

What did Jesus teach Nicodemus?

Jesus taught Nicodemus that if a person wanted to see the kingdom of God, he must be born again. Born again? Nicodemus visualized himself becoming a baby again. He was puzzled! How could a man be born when he is old? Surely he couldn't go back into his mother's womb to be born again! How was this possible? [Let the students express their views.] **What do you think to be born of water and the Spirit means?** To be born of water and the Spirit means to be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus was not speaking of physical birth; He was speaking of a spiritual birth. One must be born of water and the Spirit. To be born of the Spirit, we need to accept baptism and live a new life according to the Spirit. Baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit are closely related and together they make up the spiritual rebirth that Jesus was speaking about. **Why did Jesus compare the Holy Spirit to wind?** (Because you can hear the wind and see its presence when it blows but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. The Holy Spirit is like this because you can't tell where it will go or where it came from, but you can see its presence when people speak in tongues.)

The second character we will read about is the woman of Samaria (Jn 4:1-26).

Where is Samaria?

Samaria was between Galilee (in the north) and Judea and Jerusalem (in the south). The shortest way to go north from Jerusalem was through Samaria. For hundreds of years, the Jews and the people of Samaria had been enemies. This is because they did not agree about where God's people should worship. All Jews worshipped at Jerusalem where God had told them to build the temple. The Samaritans on the other hand had made another place for worship.

Most Jews would not travel through Samaria. They went by a longer route to avoid it. But Jesus traveled straight through Samaria. He stopped at noon in a small town called Sychar. Being tired, He sat by the well outside of town while the disciples went to buy food.

While Jesus was alone, a woman came to the well for water. It was not the usual time to go for water. **Do you think there's a reason she came alone, and at an unusual time?** She probably didn't want to encounter other women in the town, because she had a bad reputation. Jesus spoke to her and asked the woman for a drink, which surprised her. What caused the woman to be surprised? She was a Samaritan woman and Jesus was a Jew. She told Jesus that she did not expect His request. Read Jesus' reply in John 4:10 together.

What is "the gift of God" that Jesus is referring to? (John 7:38-39.) We know that if we are physically thirsty, we need to look for water, and if we are spiritually thirsty, we need to look for Jesus. Nowadays, we know that the "gift of God" refers to the Holy Spirit. At the time, though, the woman of Samaria did not understand. So, Jesus explained what this gift meant.

John 4:13-14: "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'"

Jesus Christ has the ability to give her a gift that would bring spiritual satisfaction for all eternity. Our God is called the fountain of living water and life (Isa 55:1; Jer 2:13; 17:13; Ps 36:9).

Our spiritual needs are as real as our physical, and only Jesus alone can satisfy them. God promises to provide for us; all we need to do is ask. The woman thought of her physical thirst, but Jesus stopped her. He said to her, "Go, get your husband." Why did Jesus say this? When the woman replied that she did not have one, Jesus not only confirmed, but also clarified that she had married five men and the man that she lived with now was not her husband. This demonstrated that God knew all about her life and her sins. The woman immediately knew that Jesus was not an ordinary man. An ordinary man could not have known these things about her. So, the woman perceived that Jesus was a prophet. She changed the subject and talked about the argument between the Jews and the Samaritans and where the right place for worship was. Jesus told her that a new time was coming. Men would not worship at either place; rather they would worship God in spirit and truth.

From here, the woman naturally brought up her knowledge of the coming of the Messiah, and how He would tell them all things. It was then that Jesus told her, "I who speak to you am He." This was a wonderful thing to say. Jesus had been very careful when He spoke about himself to the priests in Jerusalem, but it was to this woman that Jesus told her clearly who He was. Jesus stayed in that city two days, and many of the Samaritans in that city came to believe, thanks to the testimony of the Samaritan woman.

Jesus did not offer life just for the Jews. He came to save people from every nation, including the Samaritans whom the Jews so thoroughly rejected. His salvation is for everybody, from every country and culture. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

We learned from Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman that no matter what our background is, rich or poor,

educated or not, God's grace is available to anyone who seeks Him out. Nicodemus sought out Jesus despite the beliefs of his peers, and learned that unless he is baptized and receives the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. The Samaritan woman, through Jesus' guidance, not only learned that He is the source of everlasting life, but also that those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth, no matter where they are.

We also need to seek out Jesus and pray for the Holy Spirit, so that it may live in us. Although we often call it a "ticket," the Holy Spirit is not something that we keep in our pockets until the day we reach the heavenly gates. The Holy Spirit is active and living; it can fill us, teach us, and change us.

FOR TEACHERS

Once you have finished teaching the Bible Discovery section, please hand out the two corresponding worksheets and have the students complete them. After they are done, go over the answers with them to reinforce the lesson content. You can also open up a discussion with the students by asking them if they have ever experienced the Holy Spirit helping them in these ways before.

WORKSHEET #1 ANSWER KEY

1. The Holy Spirit is the Helper, the Spirit of truth, who will help us understand the truth.
2. The Holy Spirit will help us in our weaknesses and help us to pray; it will intercede for us.
3. The Holy Spirit will enable us to know the Father better and to know what is pleasing to Him
4. The Holy Spirit will speak for us when we witness.
5. The Holy Spirit will give us gifts to serve others.
6. The Holy Spirit will help us to keep the gospel of truth so that we will not fall away.

WORKSHEET #2 ANSWER KEY

1. baptized, Holy Spirit
2. blowing, wind
3. flesh, spirit
4. pray
5. fifty, resurrected

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Discussion Questions**1. When Jesus prophesied about the coming of the Holy Spirit, what did He compare it with?**

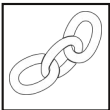
When Jesus prophesied about the coming of the Holy Spirit, He compared it to the blowing of the wind. Wind blows where it pleases. We can hear its sound, and we can see evidence of its presence in rustling grass and swaying trees, but we cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. It cannot be seen yet it can be witnessed. Likewise, we cannot determine where the Holy Spirit is coming from or where it will go, but its evidence (speaking in tongues) will testify to its presence. As the wind blows where it pleases, so God will send the Holy Spirit on whom He pleases, showering it upon everyone who earnestly prays to Him for it.

2. How was this prophecy of the coming of the Holy Spirit fulfilled? When did it come down?

On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus had resurrected, the disciples and followers of Jesus were gathered together in one place to pray. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. People outside of the group witnessed the Holy Spirit's presence and were amazed. This is recorded in Acts 2:1-13.

3. Why did Jesus ask the woman of Samaria to go and bring her husband?

This showed that the Lord knew all about her sinful life. She had also come to the well at a time when she knew no one else would be around. No matter where we go or what we do, the Holy Spirit knows the truth.

**Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs***2-5 Minutes***Water baptism and the Holy Spirit are both required to enter the kingdom of God.**

The saving effects of both water baptism and the Holy Spirit are closely related; neither one can replace the other. While baptism is essential for salvation, receiving the Holy Spirit is also a necessary step of salvation. One must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God (Jn 3:5; Tit 3:5).

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, does not belong to Christ (Rom 8:9). The Holy Spirit also testifies that we are the children and heirs of God (Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:6-7). He is a seal of our future inheritance (Eph 1:13-14).

What is the Holy Spirit?

- Spirit of God (Mt 3:16; Is 11:2)
- Spirit of Christ (Acts 16:7; Rom 8:9)

What is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit?

- Must speak in tongues (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 19:6-7)
- Can be seen and heard (Acts 2:33; 8:17-19)

**Check for Understanding***5 Minutes*

- Who was Nicodemus?** Nicodemus was a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council.
- When did Nicodemus go to see Jesus?** At night.
- Fill In the Blanks:** Most assuredly, I _____ (say) to you, unless one is _____ (born) of _____ (water) and the _____ (Spirit), he _____ (cannot) enter the _____ (kingdom) of God.
- Why was the woman of Samaria surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?**
 - Because she expected to be alone
 - Because she was a Samaritan woman and He was a Jew
 - Because she had 5 husbands
- What does Jesus offer the woman of Samaria? What does He mean?**
Jesus offered her living water, the Holy Spirit. He offered the woman satisfaction for all her spiritual needs.
- How did Jesus settle the question of where to worship? How will the division between Jews and Samaritans change in the kingdom of God?** We must all worship God in spirit and in truth. The location is not important.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Teachers: Print out the corresponding Life Application worksheets and go over them with the students.]

1. Dying to My Old Self and Understanding Spiritual Rebirth

Let's learn what "rebirth" is from today's lesson.

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:3)

Eternal life begins at the moment when we are baptized in living water—this is also called "spiritual rebirth." When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we are reborn because all our sins are washed away.

Spiritual rebirth means "dying to your old self." Let's read Romans 6:3. "Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Now, let's read verse 6. "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Do you know that we can be slaves of sin if we don't die to our old selves? List some of the things that we can be enslaved to:

1. I can be enslaved to (the Internet).
2. I can be enslaved to (video games).
3. I can be enslaved to (unhealthy emotions, e.g., anger, jealousy, etc.).

How can we have victory? Fill in the blanks as you read 1 John 3:6. "Whoever abides in Him does not sin." Let's continue to read verse 9. "Whoever has been born of God does not sin."

That means we need to abide in Jesus all the time. That's how we can die to our old self!

How can we abide in Jesus? Name some ways below.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. (By going to church.) | 2. (By reading the Bible.) |
| 3. (By praying to God.) | 4. (By keeping His commandments.) |

Short Testimony from an E2 Student

After returning from Student Spiritual Convocation, a sister shared with her RE teacher that she made a determination to pray for at least five minutes every day before leaving for school, because she had a strong desire to abide in Jesus all the time. Students, we can also do the same and abide with Jesus in prayer at the start of our day!

2. Worship God in Spirit and Truth

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?

1. To worship God "in spirit" means to have the right purpose of honoring God. Our worship must glorify God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

In order to worship God "in spirit," we must take the time to examine our hearts. He is our Creator and we need to "fear" Him. We should not rush in our worship or arrive late; rather, we should plan to arrive early so that we can worship God with a proper mindset to show reverence and respect to God. Worshipping God must be sincere from our heart. Mark 7:6 tells us, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me."

Worship God with reverence and godly fear.

2. We must worship God in truth, according to His word. In the Bible, God has given to us all the things that we need to know which pertain to life and godliness, so that we can worship Him. 2 Peter 1:3: "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us."
- There are a lot of false teachings today that are being passed off as the truth. The Bible is the only truth that teaches us how to live for God. We must use the word of God as we worship. Furthermore, we must know the teachings in the Bible in order to go to heaven.

When we worship God, we must do so in spirit and in truth.

Scenarios

1. No. Kevin could have played sports outside or played something that he could easily stop thinking about. He could also have chosen to play the video game on Sunday after finishing his homework and chores.
2. No. Margaret should have cast all her worries onto God in prayer and told God that she needed help and wisdom. She should have let God care for her and focused on worshipping Him, because the Bible tells us that He is our Helper in times of need (Heb 4:16).
3. No. Cody should have acknowledged that second place was already good enough, and that he had tried his best. There were always going to be more meets in the future. In order to enjoy a more satisfying worship, he needed to ask God to help him overcome his anger and sadness. Lastly, even though he wanted to win first place, God could have been teaching him about being humble.



Activity

The Ticket

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To emphasize that the Holy Spirit is needed to enter heaven and to encourage students to pray for others.

Materials

- Blank paper (cut into smaller pieces, but big enough to write a short prayer request on)
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencils, markers

Instructions

1. Have each student fold their construction paper in half, and on one half draw a ticket of any sort.
2. Cut out the ticket, cutting both halves of the paper at the same time.
3. Tape or glue three sides of the ticket so that it forms a "pocket".
4. Divide the blank paper among the students, and have them write down a prayer request that is related to their Life Application Worksheet. Ask them to share their prayer requests with the class. Use this opportunity to ask if anyone has not received the Holy Spirit, and encourage the students to pray for one another.
5. (Optional step) Mix up the prayer requests and have each student pick out one. If they pick out their own, then have them switch with a neighbor. Encourage them to especially remember this prayer request whenever they pray at home or during RE prayers at church. Perhaps set up a time during the week when the class can pray at the same time, in their own homes.
6. Have them place their prayer requests inside their tickets and pin or tape them to the wall, so that they can check their classmates' prayer requests if they forget what they are.

Homework Answer Key

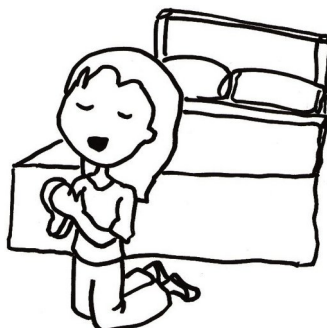
1. "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:5)
We must be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit to be saved and enter the kingdom of God.
2. Must speak in tongues; it can be seen and heard
3. It can help us understand the Bible, help us to pray, give us wisdom to make the correct decisions, speak for us when we evangelize to our friends, and keep us close to God so that we don't turn away.
4. Answers may vary.
5. Jesus met Nicodemus in the secrecy of night. Nicodemus was well known in his community and a religious leader. He held a high government office and was respected by his peers. Nicodemus left his discussion with Jesus lacking understanding and hiding his belief. Jesus met the woman at noon at the well. The Samaritan woman was not well known nor a leader. She held no power and was a religious "outsider." However, she asked Jesus for the living water and she left knowing who Jesus was. She told her entire town about Jesus and many were saved. God's salvation is for all mankind, no matter what you look like or where you come from. Jesus commanded that the gospel be preached to Judea, Samaria and the end of the earth.

The Holy Spirit: Our Helper

Instructions: Look up each of the following Bible passages. In your own words, describe what the passage says about how the Holy Spirit will help us.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| John 16:7, 13 | |
| Romans 8:26-27 | |
| Ephesians 1:17 | |
| Matthew 10:18-20 | |
| 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7, 11 | |
| Hebrews 2:1 2 Timothy 1:13-14 | |

If you have not received the Holy Spirit, **pray hard** for the Holy Spirit.



If you have received the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is your helper, so pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

An Undercover Visit

Instructions: Unscramble the words to complete the sentence. Then find where they are hidden in the word search.

1. We must be _____ and receive the _____ _____ to enter the kingdom of God.
 (dzpabeti) (lyHo) (tipirS)
2. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the _____ of the _____.
 (wignlob) (dwin)
3. Flesh gives birth to _____ but the Spirit gives birth to _____.
 (shfel) (ptsiri)
4. We must _____ to God for the Holy Spirit.
 (apyr)
5. The Holy Spirit descended _____ days after Jesus had _____.
 (tifyf) (erudsrcetre)



Dying to My Old Self and Understanding Spiritual Rebirth

Let's learn what "rebirth" is from today's lesson.

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:3)

Eternal life begins at the moment when we are baptized in the living water—this is also called "spiritual rebirth." When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we are reborn because of all the sins one washed away.

Spiritual rebirth means "dying to your old self." Let's read Romans 6:3. "Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Now, let's read verse 6. "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Do you know that we can be slaves of sin if we don't die to our old selves? List some of the things that we can be enslaved to:

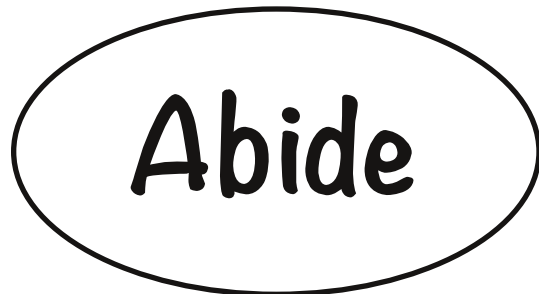
1. I can be enslaved to _____.
2. I can be enslaved to _____.
3. I can be enslaved to _____.

How can we have victory? Fill in the blanks as you read 1 John 3:6. "Whoever abides in Him does not _____." Let's continue to read verse 9. "Whoever has been born of God does not _____."

That means we need to _____ in Jesus all the time. That's how we can die to our old self!

How can we abide in Jesus? Name some ways below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Short Testimony from an E2 Student

After returning from Student Spiritual Convocation, a sister shared with her RE teacher that she made a determination to pray for at least five minutes every day before leaving for school, because she had a strong desire to abide in Jesus all the time. Students, we can also do the same and abide with Jesus in prayer at the start of our day!

Abide In Jesus!

*Determine to pray at least 5 minutes
every day!*

Worship God in Spirit and Truth

What does it mean to worship in God in spirit and in truth?

1. To worship God "in spirit" means to have the right purpose of honoring God. Our worship must _____ God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

In order to worship God "in spirit," we must take the time to examine our hearts. He is our Creator and we need to "fear" Him. We should not rush in our worship, or arrive late; rather, we should plan to arrive there early so that we can worship God with a proper mindset to show reverence and respect to God. Worshiping God must be sincere from our heart. Mark 7:6 tells us, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me."

2. We must worship God in truth, according to His word. In the Bible, God has given to us all the things that we need to know which pertain to life and godliness, so that we can worship Him.

2 Peter 1:3 "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us."

There are a lot of false teachings today that are being passed off as the truth. But the Bible is the only truth that teaches us how to live for God. We must use the word of God as we worship. Furthermore, we must know the teachings in the Bible in order to go to heaven.

When we worship God, we must do so in _____ and in _____.

Let's read the following scenarios and decide whether or not the students below were able to worship in spirit and in truth.

1. Kevin had just finished his school week and couldn't wait to play video games after school. He rushed home and started playing that one level he was trying to beat. He kept playing for hours and was only ten points away from winning when his mom called him to go to church. Reluctantly, Kevin put down the controller and went to church with his parents. At church, Kevin was unable to concentrate on the sermon because he kept replaying the video game level over and over again in his head. **So, even though Kevin was physically at church, do you think Kevin was truly worshipping God when his mind was filled with thoughts of video games? What could Kevin have done differently?**
2. Margaret had a big science project due on Monday. It was Friday and she had already spent over an hour looking up information on the Internet. She was still working on finishing the project after dinner when her mom called her to go to church. She only had a little more to go, but she knew that she had to go to church, so she left her project at home unfinished. While she was praying at church and listening to the sermon, Margaret could only think about her project and what she needed to do to finish it. **Do you think Margaret was truly worshipping God when she kept thinking about her science project while at church? What could Margaret have done differently?**
3. Cody had a big swim meet before church on Saturday morning. He had been practicing for this meet for months and his goal was to win first place. Much to his sadness, Cody came in second place, and even though his parents were proud of him, he still couldn't stop thinking about first place. After the meet, Cody's family went to church and Cody went to sit in the first pew, as usual. However, during the sermon, Cody could only think about how he didn't win first place and he couldn't concentrate on writing his sermon notes. During prayer, Cody was filled with anger and sadness, so he was unable to focus on God. **Even though Cody was taking notes and praying, do you think Cody was truly worshipping God while being filled with anger at church? What could Cody have done differently?**

E2 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 7—Jesus and Nicodemus, and the Samaritan Woman's Rebirth

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(John 3:5)**

1. What does it mean to be born of water and the Spirit?
2. What is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit?
3. In what ways can the Holy Spirit help you in your daily life?
4. Nicodemus came to see Jesus by night. He may have been afraid to let his peers see him talk with Jesus. Are you afraid to let your friends and peers know that you believe in Jesus Christ? How do you think you can encourage yourself or others to overcome this fear?
5. Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman seem like two people who come from very different worlds. Can you list some differences or similarities between them? What can this teach you about God's salvation?