

## **THE BIG IDEA: Being born again must lead to transformation.**

### The Take-Off

Today, we kick off our Summer Series called “Born Again”

Over the next 10 weeks or so, we’ll be talking about what it looks like to follow Jesus

For some, this will be new, and for others it will be a necessary reminder.

### **1. It’s something we can’t do**

- a. Nicodemus asked how a grown man could get back in his mother’s womb?
- b. In other words, a man used to doing things to be right asked Jesus how he could do this, too.
- c. Jesus said that being born again is something we can’t do
- d. verse 6 / flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit
- e. It is a work of the Spirit
- f. A lot of us approach Christianity like a seminar, but Jesus saw it as an experience
- g. Babies have absolutely nothing to do with being born - they are literally along for the ride
- h. Nicodemus struggled with this - perhaps we do, too, more than we want to admit
- i. We want to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps; stand before God and tell Him all the good we did (more than the bad we did)
- j. We want to be able to say we earned it, but you can’t earn a gift
- k. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) / we can’t boast about it

### **2. It’s something we can’t control**

- a. Jesus keeps talking, this time about the wind (verse 8)
- b. It blows where it pleases
- c. It’s unpredictable
- d. We’re all onboard for this nature lesson until Jesus turns it to being born again
- e. Not only is being born again something we can’t do, it’s also something we can’t control

### **3. It’s something we must accept**

- a. Nicodemus asked a second time, “How can this be?”
- b. This is where Jesus gets to the heart of the matter
- c. We can’t do it and we can’t control it, but to be born again we must know and accept Jesus as Lord
- d. “Accept” isn’t just walking aisle and asking Jesus into your heart or mentally agreeing with a message
- e. The Greek word implies taking and receiving - something changing
- f. 1 Cor. 9:24 / a runner receiving a prize
- g. 2 Cor. 11:24 / Paul receiving lashes
- h. John Bevere notes in his book “Good or God” that “The word Savior is found 36 times in the Bible, the word Lord occurs over 7,800 times. Where do you think God places the emphasis?”
- i. Being born again must lead to transformation
- j. Maybe not all at once, but we are changed because we are reborn.
- k. We have a new father
  - From Satan (John 8:44) to God (Galatians 4:6)
- l. We have a new master
  - From sin (Romans 6:14) to Jesus (John 20:28)
- m. We have a new guide
  - From the flesh (James 1:14) to the Spirit (Romans 8:14)

### The Landing

Finish with the illustration about being reborn in a different country. How different would your life be?

It would be different in so many ways: language, food, culture, dress, etc.

If we claim to be born again and are no different from the culture of death, we must heed 2 Corinthians 13:5 and examine ourselves to see if indeed, we are in the faith.

Let’s pray