

# Born Again | The Grid #3 (Youth)

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So far we've learned that everyone has a worldview, and Jesus invites us to adopt his grid to experience freedom and joy in this life. We've learned that most people expect God to give them a list of rules to follow to be saved. In Lesson #2, we saw that, instead of a list of rules, Jesus commanded us to love him completely, and then to love others if we want to be saved.

Loving God and loving people comes from our hearts, and we see that God is first concerned about how our hearts are transformed, and secondarily about our outward actions for him. Today we are going to see that real salvation happens when we trust the power of Jesus and are transformed from the inside out. The story of Nicodemus in [John 3](#) illustrates this important truth.

## Following Jesus starts with a willingness to change your mind

Nicodemus was a Jewish religious leader who secretly admired the life and teachings of Jesus. As a Pharisee, Nicodemus had a worldview that came from the culture he was in and his religious schooling. He was taught how to think, how to act, and how to please God by older and wiser teachers. To Nicodemus, Jesus was like a rabbi – a Jewish teacher who could explain the deeper mysteries of God.

***John 3:2** After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."*

In this verse, we see that Nicodemus wanted to listen to and learn from Jesus. He acknowledged that Jesus had authority from God, and that Jesus' grid was valuable to him. Even though he came to Jesus at night, (probably to keep it a secret from other Pharisees), his grid was clearly changing to align with the teachings of Jesus. This is the first key to a relationship with God, and the Bible calls it an attitude of "repentance." When we repent, we are showing our willingness to change our mind. Repentance means turning from our perspective to God's perspective. We are submitting to Jesus as Lord of our lives, and giving God control of our lives. We are accepting the grid of Jesus.

## You won't get anywhere unless you realize you are powerless

When Nicodemus visited Jesus that night, he had no idea that he was going to learn how to have a real relationship with God. You see, for his whole life, all of his schooling had taught him that a relationship with God was earned by moral living and studying religious books. But Jesus completely changed his grid with one simple statement:

***John 3:3** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."*

When Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be "born again" in order to see the kingdom of God, he wasn't saying that Nicodemus literally needed to become a baby and be born a second time. Instead, he was saying that spiritually, Nicodemus was like a newborn baby. Newborn babies are helpless, powerless, and totally dependent on someone else to take care of them. Jesus was telling Nicodemus that he was like that newborn baby: totally powerless to save himself, and totally dependent on someone else to save him.

## Trusting the power of Jesus is the only thing that can save you

You may have heard this verse before, and it's actually something that Jesus said to Nicodemus at the end of their conversation!

**John 3:16** *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

In this sentence, Jesus is talking about what he came to earth to do. He came because he loved us, and he wanted us to have eternal life. He knew that we couldn't do enough good things and follow enough rules to make up for all the bad things we've done in our lives. So he came and died on a cross to pay for all the sins we have ever committed. When we believe in Jesus, we are believing that his death on the cross was enough to pay for our sins and save us.

This is why Jesus used the phrase “born again.” He wanted to show Nicodemus that he was like a helpless baby – dependent on the power of God to save him.

### Have you personally had your defining moment?

Having Christian parents or Christian friends or going to church every week doesn't make you a Christian. If you have realized that you need the power of God to save you, now would be a great time to talk to your mentor or small group leader.

We can have a relationship with God only because of Jesus ( [Romans 10:9](#)). You don't become a Christian by following a list of rules or studying your Bible all the time, but by trusting in Jesus' power to save you. If you have accepted the grid of Jesus, you're almost there. Are you ready for your defining moment of faith?

### Discussion Questions:

1. *Watch the video together or invite someone to summarize the topic.*
2. *What is your initial reaction to this video? Do you disagree with any of it? What jumped out at you?*
3. *Read [Luke 18:9-14](#). How would you describe the Pharisees' “grid” for looking at life?*
4. *What are some ways that Christians can act like Pharisees?*
5. *How was Nicodemus' attitude toward Jesus different than other Pharisees we see in the Bible?*
6. *Do you ever feel like you have to do good things to please God? What does this look like in your life?*
7. *What is repentance? How does the story of Nicodemus help us understand repentance a little better?*
8. *What is your reaction to a person being saved by simply trusting Jesus' work for them on the cross?*
9. *If you've had your defining moment, share with the group how it happened. If you haven't had your defining moment and want to, feel free to talk to your small group leader afterward or reach out to your mentor during the week to discuss this.*
10. *Write a personal action step based on this conversation.*