



Must – Many – Know

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- Focus** Where we will be spending eternity is important. It is important to God; therefore it should be important to us. Going to church or giving money to your church will not save you. Salvation comes only when we admit our sins and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We cannot change ourselves; only God can do that work within us. When He changes our hearts, He changes our lives. If we are not sure or doubt whether we are saved, we need to examine our hearts to see if we truly are (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- Fun** Getting to know each other is fun! Ask each member to share in **one sentence** something the group might be surprised to learn about him or her. Examples: “I was once a winner in a pie-eating contest!” or “While I was a college student, I hiked the Appalachian Trail!”
- Review** Key Scriptures: John 3; Matthew 7
- **You must be born again.** *John 3:1–7*
Jesus did not say to Nicodemus that he should be born again or that he should consider being born again, but He said “You *must* be born again.” We are all born from the womb, or as Scripture says, born of water. However, there must be a second birth, a birth born of the Spirit. Nicodemus worshipped faithfully, tithed, fasted, knew his Scripture, memorized the first five books of the Bible, believed in God, prayed to God, and even recognized that Jesus came from God. Yet, Jesus said that even by practicing these good things, Nicodemus was not saved.
 - **Many people have not been born again.** *Matthew 7:13–14; 21–23*
Some people think that because they go to church or read their Bible, they are saved. These verses from Matthew could be considered a wake-up call to

those who never had the assurance of true salvation. It's possible to be involved in ministry, perhaps even having gone up to the altar several times, yet still not know the transforming grace of Jesus. To fully understand, we need to apply the analogy of birth. Just as we are born of the flesh, we must be born of the Spirit. We cannot change ourselves, only Jesus changes our hearts, our actions, and our lives. We will not be perfect, but we will be forgiven.

- **How can I know if I've been born again?** *1 John 5:13*

When we come to Jesus, we must acknowledge that we have sinned and submit our will to His will. Then God changes us, and we desire to live His way instead of our own way. He reverses the direction of where we are headed (hell) to the destination He has provided for us from the very beginning (heaven). If you have not experienced this in your life, or if you are doubting whether you are saved, then be honest with God. Take that step today!

Group Dynamics Idea One week, print out the words to an uplifting hymn or song to share with the group. Sing it together before you pray at the start of your lesson.

Discuss

1. Why do you think some people believe they are saved when they are not?
2. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a "Pharisee" is a member of an ancient Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written law and commonly held to have pretensions to superior sanctity. Discuss how you believe a Pharisee would view an individual who was a common fisherman, mason, or carpenter during the time of Jesus.
3. John 3:5 reads, "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" Explain how each of these two processes apply to birth.
4. Which gate are we told to take in Matthew 7:13? Where does the opposite gate lead? Looking at Matthew 7:14, why do only a few take the first gate?

5. “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). What group of individuals is being addressed by the Apostle John in this verse?
6. Take a quiet moment to seek the Lord. If you cannot remember when you asked Jesus to forgive your sins, let Him come into your heart and take control of your life; if you are ready, please do so now. If you have already accepted Jesus, pray silently for those who may be making a decision to receive His saving grace. If you just now received Jesus, tell someone.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus says that we must be born again.
- There are many who have not been born again.
- I can know that I have been born again.
- When I accept Jesus, He changes me.
- When I accept Jesus, I have eternal life.

Prayer

Lord, I am a sinner—please forgive me. I want to receive Your saving grace today. Come into my heart and transform my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

New Leader Tip Delegating authority is helpful to a leader. Sharing tasks, such as asking a different person each week to open or close the lesson with prayer, to be a greeter at the door, or to keep track of signups for the dessert list, helps foster shared responsibility for a group.