

## Study Questions

# A Nightlight for the Soul

John 3:1-21

### Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever met anyone who claimed to have “intellectual problems” with Christianity, but was merely using them to hide behind? What could they be hiding from?
2. Jesus had the inside scoop on Nicodemus. According to John 6:44, what did Jesus know to be true of him, and what can we know to be true of non-believers who continue coming to Lincoln Berean Church services or other events?
3. Hebrews 2:15 teaches that all those apart from Christ fear death. Yet this is not at all apparent in most people. How do people mask this fear? That is, in what ways do they cope with it?

### Bible Study

1. Did Nicodemus come to Jesus completely in the dark? When might he have been exposed to the light through *signs* performed by Jesus? What is the nature of a sign?
2. The new birth is mentioned three times by Jesus during the interview with Nicodemus (vv. 3, 5, 7). In your own words, restate the necessity of the new birth for the purpose of living in the Kingdom of God.
3. Most would consider a high IQ to be purely an asset. Is there a downside to being brilliant when it comes to the Gospel? Read 1 Cor. 1:18-29 for more light on the subject.
4. Read Numbers 21:6-9. Why do you think the Lord chose to make the source of death (i.e., a snake) serve as the source of life?
5. Jesus says in John 3:18 that those who do not believe in the Son have been judged *already*. Why? Romans 5:12, 15-19 illuminates this discussion.
6. John 3:19-21 expands on this judgment. It unfolds in relation to the Light that God has sent into the world. Knowing that the Bible does not teach salvation by works, explain the two reactions to the Light in these verses.
7. After John 3:1-21, Nicodemus shows up in 7:40-53 and 19:38-42. Describe the progress you see in the life of Nicodemus through these three passages.

### Application

1. Those who become Christians as adults usually do so as a result of a process. If this is true of you, and if you feel comfortable enough to do so, describe your journey to the group.

2. Referring back to Question 7 in the Bible Study section, do you know of anyone currently *in process* with respect to the light of the Gospel?

At what stage in the journey are they now?

As a group, pray for these people, asking the Lord to use you to lead them from darkness to light. If you do not currently know of anyone considering Christ, ask the Lord to lead you to someone who is. He loves that sort of prayer (1 John 5:14-15).