

## WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE

	<b>Scripture:</b>	John 3:1–15
	<b>Week of:</b>	January 26, 2026
	<b>Message</b>	The Necessity of the New Birth
	<b>Title:</b>	
	<b>Speaker:</b>	Ps. Saolomon Mouacheupao

### **1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)**

When you think back on your spiritual journey, what did “spiritual curiosity” look like for you? Was it welcomed, ignored, or hidden? Why?

### **2. READ TOGETHER**

*Have someone from your group read aloud **JOHN 3:1–15**.*

**Ask:** What feels most surprising about Jesus’ words to Nicodemus, and what feels most weighty?

### **3. Group Discussion (30–40 mins)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** *(Use the most helpful questions for your group.)*

1. Nicodemus comes to Jesus with respect, curiosity, and strong theological credentials, yet Jesus tells him that none of this grants entrance into the kingdom.  
Do you believe you are saved and going to heaven? In your own life, what would you point to if someone asked, “How do you know you’re saved?”
2. Jesus does not ask Nicodemus what he believes about God. He tells him what must happen to him.  
If someone asked you, “What has God done for you?” how would you answer (not what you have done for God)?
3. Ps. Saolomon said in his sermon that the new birth is something you cannot fake.

If that is true, what signs do you most rely on to reassure yourself that you are truly a Christian?

4. Nicodemus is unsettled because Jesus removes all leverage. Moral effort, knowledge, position, and religious seriousness do not qualify him.  
What leverage do you still feel entitled to bring before God, and why?
  5. Jesus compares the Spirit's work to the wind. It is real, powerful, and beyond human control.  
What does that challenge in how you prefer to think about your faith, growth, or certainty?
  6. If the new birth is entirely God's work, what does that expose about the way you relate to guilt, fear, or spiritual failure?
  7. The sermon emphasized that being born again is not gradual self-improvement but resurrection from death.  
In what ways do you still think of Christianity primarily as becoming better rather than being made alive?
  8. Jesus does not give Nicodemus a method. He gives him Himself, lifted up.  
When you feel spiritually dull, ashamed, or uncertain, what do you instinctively turn to instead of simply looking to Christ? What step can you take this week to look to Christ rather than to yourself?
  9. How does Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus challenge how we understand our mission to "*Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*"?  
John 3 reminds us that proclaiming Christ means lovingly confronting false assurance and pointing people not to religious improvement but to new life through faith in the lifted-up Son of Man.
  10. How does the necessity of the new birth reshape our core values as a church and as individuals?  
The new birth re-centers everything around God's grace, God's Word, and Christ Himself.
- **Worship:** Worship becomes grateful response to God's saving work, not a way to earn His favor.
  - **Bible Knowledge:** Scripture is not just information, it is the living Word God uses to give life.

- **Fellowship:** We welcome questions and walk patiently with seekers, remembering we all need grace.
- **Prayer:** Prayer becomes dependence, asking God to do what only He can do in hearts.
- **Service:** Service becomes fruit of new life, not a substitute for it.
- **Giving:** Giving becomes joyful response, not religious proof or reputation management.
- **Evangelism:** We proclaim a miracle, not a self-help plan: you must be born again, and Christ saves.
- **Missions:** We engage the nations with confidence that God creates new life through His Word.

#### ***4. Prayer (10–15 mins)***

Thank God for saving grace, ask for new birth where needed, and for bold, humble witness

#### **Prompt:**

Father, we confess that we cannot save ourselves. Forgive us for trusting religious effort, moral conformity, or spiritual reputation. Thank You that salvation is all of grace and that You give new birth by Your Spirit through Your Word. We pray for anyone among us who is curious but still in the dark, draw them into the light of Christ. For those who belong to You, deepen our dependence and gratitude. Make us a welcoming church for honest questions, and a faithful church that proclaims the truth of Jesus and grows mature disciples for Your glory. Help us to look to the lifted-up Son of Man with fresh faith. In Jesus' name, amen.