

# THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 5, Episode 11

### How We Have Misunderstood What It Means to Be Born Again

*John 3:9-16*

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#### Opening Prayer

Father, thank You for this time together. Open our hearts and minds to understand the deeper meaning of being "born again." Help us see the truth in Your Word and apply it to our lives. May Your Spirit guide our conversation and transform us through Your message. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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#### Discussion

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "You must be born again"? How does this differ from what Nicodemus understood?
2. Why did Nicodemus think he was already "saved"? How does this reflect the misunderstanding of salvation during Jesus' time?
3. In John 3:5-8, Jesus compares spiritual birth to the wind. What does this analogy teach us about the nature of being born again?
4. How do the Jewish concepts of "this age" and "the age to come" relate to the idea of being born again?

5. In John 3:14-15, Jesus compares His crucifixion to the bronze serpent in the wilderness. Why is this comparison significant, and what does it reveal about God's plan for salvation?
  6. Why do you think the Jews would be shocked by the idea that salvation is available not only for them but also for the Gentiles (John 3:16)?
  7. What does the "lifting up" of the serpent in Numbers 21 symbolize in relation to Jesus' crucifixion?
  8. How does the concept of "looking" or "believing" in the bronze serpent connect to the way we must look to Jesus for salvation?
  9. What is the connection between the rich young ruler's question in Luke 18:18-23 and the idea of being "born again"?
  10. In what ways have we misunderstood the true meaning of being born again in our modern context?
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## **Application Questions**

1. How can we move beyond a cultural or surface-level understanding of being born again to a deeper, spiritual transformation?
  2. Have you ever found yourself thinking that being "good enough" is enough for salvation, similar to Nicodemus' mindset? What needs to change in your thinking?
  3. How can the understanding of "the age to come" impact the way we live in the present?
  4. In what areas of your life do you need to embrace the reign of Christ as King today?
  5. How can we better explain the concept of being "born again" to someone unfamiliar with this language?
  6. What does it look like for you to "look" or "believe" in Jesus in your daily life?
  7. Reflecting on John 3:16, what steps can you take to share the message of God's love for the world with others?
  8. How does understanding the full meaning of being "born again" challenge the way you view sin and repentance in your own life?
  9. In light of Jesus' sacrifice (John 3:14-15), how should we respond to the grace given to us through the cross?
  10. How can we embrace the inclusivity of salvation for all, both Jew and Gentile, in our relationships with others?
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## Prayer Prompt

Spend time praying for:

- A deeper understanding of what it means to be born again, allowing this truth to transform your life.
  - Boldness to share the message of salvation with others, particularly those who have misunderstood or never heard the true Gospel.
  - The grace to live as citizens of the age to come, while still living in the present world, following Jesus as King.
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## Additional Resources

### Books:

1. ***The Gospel of John*** by D.A. Carson – a comprehensive commentary on the Gospel of John, including detailed insights into the Nicodemus narrative
2. ***Born Again: A Theological Introduction to the Doctrine of Regeneration*** by Peter J. Naylor – a deeper dive into the theology of regeneration and being born again
3. ***The Kingdom of God: A Guide to Christian Teaching*** by David Pawson – explore the biblical understanding of God's rule and reign, especially in light of Jesus' teachings in John 3

### Podcast:

4. **The Forgotten Jesus** – past episodes focusing on the historical and cultural background of the Gospel narratives

Feel free to adjust the questions and application points to the specific needs of your group.