

Firestarter 4

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray asking God for wisdom and understanding of the word you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand
 - Second, read to notice
 - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then Choose 3 questions from the observation section and find their answers.
 - Fourth, mark all the words that refer to **birth** and **light**.

READ: John 3:1-21

OBSERVATION:

What does it mean to be “born again”? (See article on Regeneration: Spiritual Birth and Renewal, p. 1454.)

Jesus wasn't talking about physical new birth. What birth was He talking about, and why is it important? (See 3:5 note.)

How does the illustration of wind (v. 8) relate to those who are “born of the Spirit”? (See 3:8 note.)

What does it mean that Jesus would be “lifted up,” and how does that provide eternal life? (See 3:14 note.)

How did God demonstrate His great love for us? (See 3:16 note.)

What does it mean to “believe” in Jesus?

In what way are people already condemned if they refuse to believe in and accept Christ (v. 18)?

APPLICATION:

If there is one thing that God aims to convey through the entirety of His Word, it's the fact that He loves us and wants to have a personal relationship with us. He sent His Son, who sacrificed His own life to make that relationship possible. Receiving that relationship is a person's only hope of reclaiming their purpose in life and avoiding the permanent consequences of defying God. Yet, amazingly, most people refuse God's invitation to eternal life, choosing instead to go down a dead-end path of spiritual darkness. But if we confess our sins, accept God's offer and entrust our lives to Jesus, we will find forgiveness, fulfillment, and life forever with Him.

What evidence do you see of people choosing to live in darkness (cf. v. 20)?

Why do those living by the truth come into the light (v. 21)?

How have you come out of the darkness and into the light?

Are there things in your life that are still in the dark? What are they?

Action Step: Stand outside so you can feel and observe the effects of the wind. Though you can't necessarily see the wind, you notice its activity and perhaps even hear its sound. This illustrates how the Holy Spirit's activity should be evident in your life. As you go through your day, remain aware of how your faith and the power of the Holy Spirit is—or is not—apparent to those around you in your attitudes, words, and actions.

PRAY:

Express your gratitude to God for His great love in sending Jesus. Thank Jesus for saving you from the consequences of sin and providing a way for you to be spiritually born again into a personal relationship with God. Ask God to reveal the parts of your life that are still in the dark and ask Him to shine His light on them.