

Review:

Lesson 1: The Commission

Lesson 2: The Cost

Lesson 3: Origin Stories

Being Born Again

John 3:1-9

Jesus, a Jewish rabbi himself, clarified for the world that nobody (not even descendants of Abraham) can enter the kingdom of God without God intervening and _____ his/her heart.

Discussion 1. Why is it so disruptive or disorienting to be told that, before you get into God's kingdom, there is a change God has to make to your heart? Why do you suppose this message is met with so much opposition?

Whatever metaphor we use to describe the spiritual transformation God brings about in a person who has now been made right to enter the kingdom of God, it is about a clean new start with every spiritual thing being made _____.

Discussion 2. When you became a Christ follower, what, exactly, was made brand new and what remained the same? Were you disappointed that some things remained the same? Were you surprised at what was made brand new?

Being born again, i.e., being "born from above" is a profound transformation of one's heart from being spiritually dead to being fully alive in Christ, and it is something we have no ability to do on our own. _____ can do it.

Discussion 3. If being born again is something only God can do, i.e., we have no power at all to do it for ourselves (or for anyone else), do you find that encouraging or discouraging? Why?

There is a part of becoming a disciple of Jesus which is neither _____ nor even predictable by us. Followers of Jesus learn to live in the inexplicable. It is part of the gig.

Discussion 4. What is the danger, if any, of boiling the salvation experience (i.e., being born again) into a predictable formula applicable to everyone?