

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## JOHN 2:23-3:15

### DISCUSSION 1: NEW BIRTH

1. When you think of the language of “born again” or “new birth,” what comes to mind? What are some things Jesus likely intended to convey through his language of being “born again?”
2. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; and Titus 3:5. What do you see (observations) about how the Bible talks about regeneration<sup>1</sup> or new birth? Discuss ways you might apply this important truth for how a Christian lives.
3. Read Romans 6:4, 11-14. Are there any areas in your life—addictions, personality, desires, temptations, past failures or experiences, struggles, etc.—where you feel like something continues to hold power or influence over you in a way that leads you into more sin or temptation? How does the reality of our new birth and being made alive in Christ help us remember freedom, power, and victory have already been won for us?

### DISCUSSION 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What are evidences of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life?
2. Read Romans 8:12-17 and Galatians 5:16-17. How do we live the reality of our new birth by walking in the Spirit and not the flesh?
3. What are symptoms in your life when you are trying to follow Jesus or fight sin not by the Spirit’s power but by your own power? What are some practical things you can do this week to walk in the Spirit and live as a new creation?
4. If a friend of yours feels stuck in a sin—habit, pattern, addiction—and expresses they feel like they can never change, or this is just who they are, how might you apply the doctrine of regeneration to them?

### DISCUSSION 3: LOOKING TO CHRIST

1. Read Numbers 21:4-9 alongside John 3:14-18. In what ways does the story of Moses and the bronze serpent picture Jesus?
2. Where in your life do you need to look up to Jesus—rather than looking around or within—to find forgiveness, restoration, healing, wholeness, or new life?
3. During this Christmas season, are there any ways you’re tempted to walk in the flesh rather than the Spirit? Or, are there any distractions and temptations you want to intentionally fight against? How can others in the group be praying for you this month?

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<sup>1</sup> Regeneration: the act of being made alive, cleansed, and new in our hearts (inner person) through the work of God’s Spirit when we are united to Christ by faith (at conversion).

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. How does someone experience new birth or regeneration?
2. If I am a new person or new creation in Jesus, how should that affect my life?
3. What might be some evidences or fruit of the Holy Spirit being in your life?

## APPLICATION

- **Group:** Take time as a group to encourage one another by sharing ways you've seen God at work, or evidences of the Spirit, in one another's lives. Let this be a chance to affirm one another with how God is at work and to give thanks to God for his gracious work in our lives.
- **Individual:** Join others at College Park Church by reading through the 2018 Advent booklet, "[All Things New](#)." Included is a daily reading plan with questions, as well as a weekly hymn, recipes, activities, and recommended resources. Read through a daily Old Testament and New Testament passage connected to theme of each Sunday's passage.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Read the article** "[God Has Changed You and Is Changing You](#)" by Colin Smith at [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org).
- **Read the article** "[Born this Way](#)" by Jon Bloom at [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org).
- **Regeneration or New Birth:** Titus 3:5; I Cor. 6:9-11; Heb. 10:22; Jn. 3:3-5; I Peter 1:3, 23; Eph. 2:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:17; Heb. 8:10; 1 Cor. 3:16; Ez. 36:27; Eph. 5:18; Rom. 8:11.