

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *Have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2017? If God could do one thing in your life in 2017, what would you ask him to do?*
2. *Do you tend to be a religious rule follower, or a rebellious rule breaker? Do you always cross the street at the crosswalk or wherever it is convenient?*
3. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

In John 3 we read a story about Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a religious ruler who was interested in Jesus and his teachings. The two could not be more different. Nicodemus lived his life according to a set of religious rules, making him a nice, respectable religious guy. Jesus seemed to live by a different motivation all together, making him a rebel from the religious norm. Despite Nicodemus' good life, he was drawn to the life Jesus seemed to have that Nicodemus did not.

- *As a group spend some time reading through John 3: 1-15. Write down any observations, questions, important insights you gain from reading the text.*

- *From what you know about the Pharisee's what did they rely on as a sense of security and framework for how they lived their lives? From what you know about Jesus what did he rely on as a sense of security and framework for how he lived his life?*
- *Jesus tells Nicodemus that, " unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God." What does Jesus mean by being born again? How does one become born again?*
- *Jesus tells Nicodemus, "we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony." What was the testimony Jesus was witnessing to? (See John 3:12-14.)*
- *Nicodemus' perception was limited to his temporary physical world, while Jesus' perspective was broadened by a heavenly eternal world. Do you tend to think more often in terms of the here and now, or in view of a future eternity?*

Digging Deeper

1. *On Sunday Pastor Jason made this statement " We must choose to live by design and not by default." What did you think about this statement? Do you agree? Do you have a tendency to live more by your God given design of centering yourself around God for his glory, or by default, centering your life around yourself for your glory?*
2. *This past Sunday we discovered that religious behavior can make me nice, but only Jesus can make me new. How have you personally experienced this in your own life. What steps can you take to experience a new life not just a nice life in 2017?*

NEW

“How to be Made New”
2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10
- January 8, 2017 -



Religious behavior may make me **nice**, but only Jesus can make me **new**.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17(ESV)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 ESV

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

HOW TO BE MADE NEW:

1. Choose to live by **design**, not **default**.

Isaiah 43:7 *Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’”*

2. Center your life around **Jesus** and His **Word**.

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV) *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. . ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

2 Corinthians 4:13-16 (ESV) *We have the same spirit of faith ...¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence...¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

3. Trust that Jesus will **finish** the work He started.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (ESV) *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

4. Just **show up**.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

John 3:5-7 *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’*