(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)



- TOPICS: Holy Spirit; Life of Christ
- LEAD-IN: Jesus responded and said to [Nicodemus], "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, NASB)

## LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## **Born Again**

John 3:1-21

How can we enter the Kingdom of God? How can we become part of His gracious plans for His people and for all creation?

We must be born again. We must receive new life – His life – from above.

> Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (1 Corinthians 15:50, NASB)

Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5, NASB)

This new life can only come if we are cleansed, if we die to our old sinful selves and rise to new life, as in baptism. And this life of God only comes by the Spirit of God. His Spirit is like the wind: we perceive His presence, but we cannot trace His mysterious comings and goings. This Spirit-birth comes through Jesus Christ. When the people of Israel sinned in the wilderness, God sent snakes among them to punish them, and many were dying. (Numbers 21:4-9) So they repented. Then God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it high on a pole. Any who looked on the serpent would live. That is the way He brings life to us now. He has lifted up Jesus Christ on the cross. Any who look to Him that is, trust in Him – will live. Trusting Jesus Christ is how we receive God's life, His new birth, His Holy Spirit. We cannot earn His eternal life. It is God's free gift of love.

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