



Encounter



Key Message

You must be born again.



Intro Questions

Play Shuffle Bums.

- 💡 Do you want to be a person who just attends church (bums on seat) or followers of Jesus?
- 💡 What does following Jesus mean for you?

Bible Story – John 1:43 – 51

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

Notice that this encounter is very different to how Jesus treated the woman at the well. He started off very gentle with her, surprising her with his openness, and slowly confronted her with her spiritual need. In this encounter with Nicodemus Jesus is more forceful and direct. Jesus confronts Nicodemus right up front saying "You must be born again". Nicodemus who spent his life worshipping God according to strict Jewish tradition must have been offended by this strange pronouncement. Nicodemus was a devout and upstanding Pharisee, he was a highly religious man. And what does Jesus say? He uses a different metaphor with Nicodemus, rather than pressing him on his lack of satisfaction (I can give you living water). He's pressing him on his self satisfaction.

Questions

- 💡 Why do you think Jesus had a different approach to Nicodemus to the Woman at the Well?
- 💡 Why do you think we all need different encounters with Jesus to change us?
- 💡 Why do you think Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus?
- 💡 What do you think Jesus meant by 'being born again'?
- 💡 Nicodemus was a very religious man he was a member of the Jewish ruling council, how do you think he felt by Jesus telling him "he must be born again"?
- 💡 How would you feel if you were Nicodemus?
- 💡 Nicodemus knew God and would have followed many of the rules. What was Jesus asking him to do that was different to this?
- 💡 How do we recognise when we're following Jesus or when we're following religion?
- 💡 Why would Jesus tell this religious man he has done essentially nothing to earn a place in heaven?
- 💡 Do you think there is a religious way to sin?
- 💡 Would you say you are 'born again'?



Pray

Spend some time praying with each young person.



Can you post anything on Facebook about what you've learnt today?



Can you post a picture on Instagram representing what you've done today?



Can you post anything on Snapchat about what you've learnt today?