

Asking Questions

By Chip Borgstadt



Questions are an essential part of one's faith. It's surprising how much we can learn when we talk about our faith questions and ask God to guide our search for answers.

For

Adult/Couple

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, sense of curiosity and willingness to take a risk;
optional: newspaper



Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible to John 3:1-21.

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

God, you often speak to us through our questions. Help us to grow in faith as we welcome each other's queries. Amen.

2. Read John 3:1-21 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity.
3. Consider that there were many reasons Nicodemus could have had for coming to Jesus at night. What are some reasons people today are reluctant to ask faith questions in front of others? What is the benefit one gets from not asking faith questions? What benefit comes from getting faith questions out in the open?
4. Make a list of faith questions you have heard from others. Option: look through a newspaper and predict faith questions the people in the stories might ask. Add your own questions to the list.
5. Pick a question or two from the list that you would really like to explore. With whom might you discuss this question? Find a time to do so. Monitor your own emotions before asking, during the discussion, and afterwards. What did you appreciate about the process of asking faith questions? How did you feel when someone else asked his or her question? How is asking and receiving questions an act of caring for others?
6. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for questions and for God's Word. Ask for insight and curiosity to guide you as you seek to learn more about something raised in this conversation.



John 3:1-21

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

