

A Biblical View of Redemption

By Denny Autrey

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, students will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read the comments related to Titus 3:4–7 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What does the word *regeneration* mean? Who is the Savior, and how is a person justified?

Assignment Two

Read 1 Peter 1:3, 23. Then read the comments related to John 3:4–7 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What is the “imperishable seed”? Who does Peter say implants it in us?

Assignment Three

Read the comments related to Romans 10:9–10, 17 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: According to Paul, why is preaching the Word of God important? How does one receive the new birth of salvation? What is God's plan of redemption for man?

Scripture to Memorize

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand God's redemptive plan for mankind and the process required to receive the new birth.

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Denny is married to the former Angela Sue Cain. They have three married daughters—Amber Stovall, Julie Welch, and Haley Saint John—who have graced them with four grandchildren, Jack and Lily Stovall and Grady and Addilyn Welch.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

Imagine moving to a new school and having to establish new friendships. In that process a new friend wants to get to know you and thus inquires about your faith. How would you explain what it means to be a believer? What does it mean to be born again? What is a biblical view of redemption?

Read John 3:1–8 out loud.

Studying the Passage, vv. 1–3

Verse 1. Pharisee. The Pharisees were Jews during the earthly ministry of Jesus who strictly obeyed the Jewish law. They believed in the supernatural work of God (miracles), the existence of angelic beings, and the resurrection from the dead. **Nicodemus.** This leader was a Jew by ethnic heritage. He was possibly a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the ruling body of all moral and civil law of the Jewish nation.

Verse 2. Rabbi. Rabbis were teachers of the Jewish law (Torah) and were revered by the people. Calling someone rabbi was a term of respect.

Verse 3. born again. The term “born” is a form of the Greek verb *gennaō*, which means “to beget, to generate or bring into being.” *Again* is the word for “another.” The term has dual meanings, “again” or “anew and from above.” This could refer to a second physical birth or to the complete, radical change of a supernatural birth from above. Paul uses a synonym for “born again” in Titus 3:5, where the word *palingenesia* is translated “regeneration.” The expression carries the idea of coming back from death to life.

Assignment One Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on the study of Titus 3:4–7.

Discussion Questions

At this point in the passage, do you believe Nicodemus truly understood the concept of a new birth? How does Jesus further explain the process?

Studying the Passage, John 3:4

Verse 4. He cannot. Nicodemus used a Greek term *dumatai* (is possible), preceded by the negative particle “not,” to indicate that he expects a negative answer. Nicodemus was saying from a physical standpoint, it is impossible for a man to be born a second time. *Dumatai* comes from the same root work as the noun *dunamis* (power), from which we get our word *dynamite*. No one has the power to be born a second time. Nicodemus was exactly right and was stating a biblical truth without even knowing it. The new birth (salvation) is a miraculous work that can only be performed by God.

Assignment Two Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now report on Peter’s explanation of the new birth as recorded in 1 Peter 1:3, 23.

On Your Own

In the space below write your own description of the importance of the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing the new birth.

Studying the Passage, John 3:8

Verse 8. born of the Spirit. Jesus compares the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation and the new birth to the evidence of a blowing wind. Evidence of the wind can be seen as it blows through the branches of a tree, and it can be heard as it whistles through the leaves. But the wind itself cannot be seen. So, too, is the work of God in salvation. Only God through the power of His Word (the imperishable seed), can bring new life to one who is dead in sin. Spiritual enlightenment of the mind, coupled with the truth of the gospel, is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Read Romans 10:9–10, 17 out loud.

Assignment Three Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now answer questions drawn from Romans 10:9–10, 17.

Studying the Passage, Romans 10:9–10, 17

Verse 9. confess. This term refers to a declaration of truth that is not verbal. It is an acknowledgment that Jesus is Lord. This means He is the one and only true God and worthy of all authority in one's life. **Verse 10. believes.** The Greek word used here suggests an intellectual response that impacts one's behavior and lifestyle.

Verse 17. faith. Faith is the result of a confessional belief. **word.** The Greek term *rhema* denotes a specific word. Faith comes from believing a specific word about Jesus Christ—that He is the one and only Lord.

On Your Own

Suppose you wanted to use social media to post how you came to know Christ. You know space is limited and many readers will not understand church language. In the space below write how you would describe how you were born again. When everyone is finished, share what you have written.

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven.

Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart (the real you) for the glory of Christ.

2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something in your life for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit says to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to King Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

Numerous Bible passages describe the redemptive plan of God. Four of those passages are John 3:1–8; Titus 3:4–7; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; and Romans 10:9–10, 17. Salvation is a miraculous work of God, bringing sinful men to faith through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In John 3, God's Word declares that the new birth is a mysterious yet miraculous work prompted by the Spirit of God. It is impossible for any human being to save himself.

Titus 3:4–7 teaches that God is our Savior who regenerates new life in those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.

First Peter 1 teaches us that the implanting of the seed of God's Word and the preaching of the gospel bring true eternal life.

Finally, in Romans 10:9–10, faith comes to those who confess and believe that Jesus Christ is the only God. Biblical faith is based on the specific truth revealed in the gospel.

God has a plan to redeem man from his sins. Man's sin has separated him from God, and he cannot save himself. All who believe that Jesus is Lord and confess their need for Him will be saved.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, plan to spend all your life proclaiming that good news to a world filled with people lost and separated from God.

Parent Question

What is the simplest answer you can give to the question, What must I do to be saved?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to teenagers who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.

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