Have You Been Born Again?

**Focus**
To enter the kingdom of God, we must do more than just *believe* in Jesus. We must be born again.

**Open**
If you had to play a sport, would you rather play football or baseball? Why?

**Read**
In John 3:1–7, Jesus encountered a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Pharisees were the most conservative theologians of the day who went to church regularly, studied and taught the Bible, prayed, fasted and tithed. To become a Pharisee, you also had to memorize the first five books of the Bible!

Nicodemus indicated that he believed Jesus was who He said He was. In spite of all this, Jesus told Nicodemus that to enter the kingdom of God he “must be born again.”

It is possible to attend church, pray, read the Bible, and so on, and not yet be saved. Being born again takes place when you fully yield your life to God, submitting to His Lordship. The spiritual process of being born again can look much like the natural gestational process—conception, pregnancy and birth. Many people have experienced spiritual “conception” (when the truth of God is first planted in their hearts), but haven’t yet experienced spiritual rebirth (complete submission to God).

**Talk**
1. What’s the difference between *believing* in Jesus and *trusting* in Jesus? Why isn’t it enough to just *believe* in Jesus?
2. Why is it easy to think we’re saved when we believe in God and are doing the right things? How can we know that we are saved?

3. Have you ever thought of spiritual rebirth following the same pattern as physical gestation (conception, pregnancy and birth)? Briefly describe how the process played out in your spiritual life.

4. Thinking about Pastor Robert’s illustration with the pen, what happens in our hearts when we submit ourselves to (put our trust in) Jesus’ lordship? Why can this only happen by His power?

**Live**

1. Think about the stages of spiritual rebirth (conception, pregnancy and rebirth). Tell a partner what stage you believe you’re in right now and why.

2. If you aren’t born again or aren’t sure that you’ve been born again but you’d like to be, pray together with your partner, confessing your need for Christ’s lordship and submitting your life to Him.

   If you are born again, pray with your partner about one or two people who you know are somewhere in the process but aren’t yet saved. Ask the Lord to complete the work He’s begun in them.

**Pray**

Thank the Lord for His love for you and for the supernatural work that He has done within you. Pray that He will help you to understand the depths of His love for you that you might more fully submit yourself to Him. Pray for any friends or family members that you know need God’s change in their hearts.