

## Bible Study 2 – John 3:1-21

### Double meanings

#### 1. Read John 3:1-21.

Is there anything that stands out to you as you read this text? Does any of this remind you of the prologue that we looked at last week? Do you have any other specific questions about this passage?

#### 2. Focus on verses 1-4

Why do you think that Nicodemus only came to see Jesus at night?

In verse 3, does your Bible say born from above or born again or does it say something else? – does your Bible have a note against the text at this point? Why do you think that there might be this question over translation?

Does the way this is translated help you to understand what Nicodemus may have been thinking when he answered Jesus?

Are there any other passages in John you can think of where Jesus says something and people don't understand what he is really saying? Why do you think these misunderstandings may occur?

#### 3. Focus on verses 5-8

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for wind and spirit are identical.

When you think of the Holy Spirit how do you picture him? Have you ever thought of him being like the wind? Does thinking of the Holy Spirit like that give you a different perspective on Acts 2:1-4?

In saying that to enter the kingdom of God a person must be born of water and the Spirit is Jesus which translation is Jesus supporting – being born from above or born again?

#### 4. Focus on verses 9-15

The Greek word for lifted up is also used in 8:28 and 12:32-34 and can also be translated as exalted. Read these passages.

Does using the alternative translation give you a different understanding of what John is communicating? If so, what additional insights does this give you?

A similar situation occurs in 15:2 – prunes can also be translated as cleans. What impact might this alternative translation have on the understanding of the text?

#### 5. Focus on verses 16-21

Do verses 19-21 give you a better understanding of the concept of light and dark that we briefly talked about last week? What does it mean to live in the light?

Read Ephesians 5:8-14 how does your answer to the previous question match up with that?

**John 3:1-21 gives an oversight into how John uses language to convey different levels of meaning and how people may miss the real meaning of what Jesus is saying to them. When you read the Gospel of John look for what is under the surface and symbolism not just what is on the surface.**

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