



Part 1: The Religious

GET GOING

The purpose behind John's Gospel is that we would believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and by believing we would have life. (John 20:31). The Gospel of John is full of individuals who encountered different roadblocks to faith. What happens when religion becomes an obstacle to an authentic relationship with Jesus?

DISCUSS

1. Where would you rank yourself on the ladder of morality? How have you believed or behaved like your relationship with God was based on your lifestyle?
2. Why do think so many people believe that eternal life is earned?
3. Read John 3:1-18. Nicodemus grew up in a religious system that elevated behavior as the ultimate test of spirituality. What was the one thing that was elevated in your religious experience?
4. As Nicodemus speaks with Jesus his entire world view is being challenged. In what circumstances of your life have you not been willing to consider something because it seemed too difficult? What were the consequences?
5. So many people are willing to accept only a portion of Jesus's message and blend it with their world views. How have you experienced this or even been guilty of this yourself?
6. Jesus radically altered Nicodemus' view of God. How have the things Jesus said and taught altered your view of God?
7. Are you confident that you are trusting in Christ alone to make you right with God or are you living in a way that is working to earn God's love?

WRAP IT UP

Being good isn't good enough. Don't waste your life trying to live out some religious obligation trying to earn God's favor. Instead trust in Christ and His sacrifice on the cross. It's the only way to restore a broken relationship with God.

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT).