

Grow Group Summary and Discussion Guide

Summary:

Speaker: Pastor Ryan

Title: Whoever Believes

Series: *According to John*

Text: John 3

Context & Continuation of John's Gospel

- The series through John's Gospel emphasizes who Jesus is — light in darkness, eternal Word, and fulfiller of God's promises.
- Chapter 3 focuses on Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and religious leader. Nicodemus is respected, educated, and moral — yet spiritually blind to what Jesus teaches.

The Encounter with Nicodemus

- Nicodemus approaches Jesus **at night** — symbolizing spiritual darkness, secrecy, or fear.
- He acknowledges Jesus as a teacher from God because of the miracles.
- Jesus quickly redirects from miracles to **the need to be “born again.”**
 - “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- Nicodemus misunderstands, thinking of physical birth.
- Jesus clarifies: new birth is **“of water and the Spirit.”**
 - Flesh gives birth to flesh; Spirit gives birth to spirit.
 - Entrance into God's kingdom requires spiritual rebirth, not religious performance.

Promises

- Jesus unfolds six great promises available through Him:
 - **New birth** — complete transformation, not self-improvement.
 - **Seeing and entering the Kingdom of God.**
 - **Eternal life** — beginning now and lasting forever.
 - **Freedom from perishing (death defeated).**
 - **No condemnation** — freedom from guilt and shame.
 - **Salvation** — rescued and reconciled to God.
- These promises address the deepest human longings — forgiveness, meaning, and eternal hope.

Pathway

- The **pathway is belief** — trust, reliance, surrender to Jesus.

- Belief isn't intellectual agreement ("Jesus does miracles") but **personal trust in His work on the cross**.
- Jesus refers to **Moses lifting up the serpent** (Num. 21): the Son of Man will be "lifted up" (crucified), bringing healing to those who believe.

- **Belief is a divine-human partnership:**

The Spirit enables us to believe.

We must choose to respond and trust.

- **Why We Can Trust Jesus?**

- John 3:27–35 gives reasons for confidence in Jesus:
 - He is **the Christ**, the awaited Messiah.
 - He **comes from above** — divine origin.
 - He is **above all** — supreme authority.
 - He has seen the Father and been sent by Him.
 - He is filled with the Spirit without measure.
 - The Father loves Him and has placed all things in His hands.
- Therefore, Jesus isn't merely a guide; **He is the way** itself.

- **True Belief Leads to Transformation**

- Real belief produces visible change:
 - Those who believe **come to the light**; their deeds reflect God's work.
 - Faith without transformation is empty.
- Nicodemus knew *about* Jesus but didn't yet *trust* Him.
- Belief transforms identity and behaviour — we live as born-again people.

People

- Jesus' offer is radically inclusive: **whoever believes**.
- God's grace extends beyond ethnic, social, and moral boundaries.
- Salvation is available to **all people**, regardless of background or past.

Now What?

- For those who don't yet believe:
 - Today is the day to trust Jesus, be born again, and receive new life.
- For believers:
 - Keep believing — faith is ongoing trust, not a one-time event.

- Follow John the Baptist's model:
"He must increase, I must decrease."
 - Live to point others to Jesus.
 - Let joy grow as Jesus becomes the centre of life.

Discussion Guide:

1. Today we will be looking at John Chapter 3 as we continue our journey through the gospel. Have someone open your discussion time in **prayer**.
2. **(Ice Breaker Question)** Pastor Ryan mentioned a trip to Mexico. If you had an all expense paid trip: where would you go and what would you do?
3. Take turns **reading** through John 3 one or two paragraphs at a time.
 - Feel free to pause if people have questions or if things jump out to you. Discuss these questions and insights.
 - What recurring themes and words do you notice?
4. This chapter is filled with glorious **promises** for those who believe.
 - List out the many promises found in the text.
 - What is significant about being Born Again? How do you understand being Born Again? Reread verses 3-8.
5. The **pathway** to these promises is belief.
 - The object of our faith must be Jesus. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and truly trusting in Him?
 - Nicodemus has obstacles to believing in Jesus. What are the obstacles that people, perhaps even you, face in trusting Jesus and what He has done?
 - What does it look like in someone's life when they believe in Jesus? Can you tell the difference?
6. The promises are available to all **people**: whoever believes.
 - Why would Nicodemus struggle with Jesus teaching the whoever believes can be Born Again?
 - Where else in Scripture do you see the theme that belief and salvation are available for all people?

7. Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night. John's Gospel is full of contrasts, including light and dark.
 - Have you, or someone you know, felt so lost or so dark that the promise that all people can come to Jesus feels impossible?
 - How would you encourage someone who felt this way?
8. John the Baptist reminds us of the joy that comes when we point others to Jesus.
 - What are ways that we can help people know Jesus? What tips do you have for sharing with co-workers? Your children? Family members? People from around the world?
 - What choices can we make to live out verse 30?
9. Close your discussion time with **prayer** for each other.