

Come To Jesus

2024-09-23 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 2

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a trained teacher of the law, and he came to Jesus at night, probably to avoid his colleagues' questions. He opened with a compliment. Jesus answered with a riddle: no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. The compliment got no thanks and the riddle got no easy explanation. Pastor Matt drew a pattern out of the whole scene: come to Jesus with openness, expect some pushback, and be willing to sit in confusion long enough for clarity to arrive. Anyone who claims to be past the basics has already stopped being teachable.

To get started

- When did you last admit you did not understand something about faith?

Looking back at the message

The emergency-God line is the one people will recognize. Start there.

- 1 Pastor Matt described treating God like an emergency mechanic instead of regular maintenance: only showing up when something breaks. How close is that to your pattern?
- 2 Pastor Matt said confusion is not a wall but a gateway, because clarity tends to come only to people willing to sit in confusion first. When have you pushed through confusion to something clearer?
- 3 Nicodemus came at night, likely to avoid the questions his fellow leaders would ask. Where do you keep your faith quiet to avoid questions? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 2:23-25 before John 3. The two paragraphs belong together.

- 4 Read John 2:23-25. Many people believed in Jesus, and Jesus would not entrust himself to them. Why not?
- 5 Read John 3:1-8. Nicodemus opens with a compliment. What does Jesus do with it?
- 6 The phrase born again completely confused a trained teacher of the law. Why do you think Jesus chose an image that confusing?
- 7 Read verse 8. Jesus compares the Spirit to wind. What is the point of that comparison?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The three moves are openness, pushback, confusion. Ask which one people avoid.

- 8 Jesus's pattern involves openness, pushback, and confusion. Which of the three do you avoid the most?
- 9 Pastor Matt said coming to Jesus at the end of your rope is fine, but coming to him at the start of an ordinary morning is better. When do you actually come?
- 10 What is something in Scripture you gave up on understanding?
- 11 Pastor Matt said the people who corrected him early in his faith were not judging him, they were helping him. Who has done that for you? OPTIONAL

The group together

He closed by asking people to serve. A group is a good place to take that step together.

- 12 Why is it so hard to say I do not understand in a room full of Christians?
- 13 What could this group do with a passage nobody in the room understands?
- 14 Pastor Matt said serving is more fun than sitting, and that many people find their calling by simply trying a serving role. What could this group serve in together?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What confusing thing are you willing to sit with this week instead of setting it down?

You might pray about

- For patience with what we do not yet understand
- For people who only come to God in emergencies
- For a next step into serving