

2026-02-22 Small Group Guide

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Born Again: A Life of Continuous Development"

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help the group grow in understanding of what it means to be truly saved and continuously developing in Christ.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: When you think about your life journey, what's been the most significant period of growth or change for you? What made that season so transformative?

Key Scripture References

John 3:1-21 (Nicodemus and being born again)

Luke 8:9-15 (Parable of the Sower)

Luke 7:36-50 (The woman who anointed Jesus' feet)

Main Takeaways

1. Salvation is Not a One-Time Event, But a Continuous Process

Just as physical birth involves conception, development, and ongoing growth, spiritual birth requires the same progression.

2. True Faith Produces Evidence

Faith without works is dead. Our lives should show continuous development and fruit as evidence of genuine salvation.

3. Recognition of Sin Leads to Greater Love

Those who recognize they've been forgiven much, love much. Our awareness of our sinfulness should increase our gratitude and devotion to Christ.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding "Born Again" (15-20 minutes)

Read John 3:1-8. Why do you think Jesus used the metaphor of being "born again" with Nicodemus? What does this tell us about the nature of salvation?

The sermon emphasized that salvation involves conception, birth, AND development. Where do you see yourself in this process? Are you still developing, or have you plateaued?

What's the difference between "easy believism" (just saying you believe) and genuine saving faith? How can we know the difference in our own lives?

Section 2: The Parable of the Sower (15-20 minutes)

Read Luke 8:9-15. Which soil type do you most identify with in different seasons of your life? Why?

The sermon asked: "Why do we think it's okay to give the world our best and not Jesus?" How do you answer that question for yourself? What areas of your life get your best energy and attention?

The pastor mentioned that "life's worries, riches, and pleasures" choke out spiritual maturity. What specific worries, riches, or pleasures are currently competing for your devotion to Christ?

Section 3: The Woman's Extravagant Love (15-20 minutes)

Read Luke 7:36-50. What strikes you most about this woman's actions? What made her worship so powerful?

Jesus said, "He who has been forgiven little loves little." Do you think this means some people are forgiven less, or that some people don't recognize

how much they've been forgiven? How does this apply to you?

The woman gave sacrificially and humbled herself publicly. When was the last time you did something costly or uncomfortable out of love for Jesus?

Section 4: Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

The sermon challenged: "When was the last time you changed something for Jesus?" How would you answer that question?

The pastor said, "I'm tired of wearing diapers" spiritually. What does spiritual maturity look like practically in daily life? What would need to change for you to move toward greater maturity?

The sermon emphasized that salvation is "all about Jesus, not about us." How does this perspective challenge the way you typically think about your faith?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

Option 1: Honest Self-Assessment Take time this week to journal through these questions:

Do I truly believe I killed Jesus with my sin?

Is my salvation about getting something (heaven, peace, blessing) or about Jesus Himself?

What evidence of spiritual growth exists in my life over the past year?

Option 2: Sacrificial Worship Like the woman in Luke 7, do something sacrificial this week as an act of worship:

Give financially beyond your comfort zone

Serve someone who cannot repay you

Spend extended time in prayer and worship when it's inconvenient

Option 3: Confronting Complacency Identify one area where you've been spiritually lazy or comfortable:

Inconsistent Bible reading

Skipping church for lesser things

Avoiding difficult obedience

Not sharing your faith

Make a concrete plan to change, and share it with someone in the group for accountability.

Option 4: Gratitude Exercise Make a list of specific sins Jesus has forgiven you for. Spend time each day this week thanking Him specifically for His forgiveness, and notice how it affects your love for Him.

Accountability Questions

What is one specific way you will pursue spiritual development this week?

Who in this group can you share your struggle with and ask to check in with you?

What would it look like for you to "seek first the kingdom of God" in your daily schedule this week?

Closing Exercise (10 minutes)

Silent Reflection: Give everyone 2-3 minutes of silence to ask themselves:

"Do I love Jesus much, or only a little?"

"Am I developing spiritually, or am I stagnant?"

Prayer Partners: Break into groups of 2-3 and pray specifically for:

Renewed passion for Jesus

Recognition of how much we've been forgiven

Courage to change and grow

Freedom from spiritual complacency

Closing Prayer

Pray together that:

God would reveal areas of spiritual immaturity in each person's life

The group would grow in genuine love for Jesus, not just appreciation for what He gives

Each person would have the courage to make real changes this week

The Holy Spirit would convict and transform hearts to be more like Christ

For Further Study

Read through the book of James this week, noting every reference to faith and works

Study Hebrews 5:11-6:3 on spiritual maturity

Reflect on 2 Peter 1:3-11 regarding adding to your faith

Leader's Notes

Be Vulnerable: This sermon calls for honest self-examination. As a leader, be willing to share your own struggles with spiritual growth.

Avoid Legalism: The goal isn't to create a checklist of behaviors but to foster genuine love for Christ that naturally produces fruit.

Create Safety: Some may realize they've never truly been saved. Create a safe space for people to express doubts and questions.

Point to Grace: While the sermon is challenging, remember that all growth happens by grace through faith, not human effort alone.

Follow Up: Consider checking in with group members mid-week about their commitments.