



## Session 5

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### Before + After

#### **BIG IDEA**

In the book of John, we meet character after character who experience radical transformation when they encounter Jesus.

#### **OPENING QUESTION**

Without sharing names, did you grow up with someone who believed “That’s just the way I am” was an acceptable response to the same old problems?

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Read this passage: John 3:1-21. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn’t you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience and following the way of Jesus? How should it affect the way I live?

A disciple of Jesus is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus.

September 7  
WEEKEND

#### **Thought:**

Often, an encounter with God involves an uncomfortable truth.

#### **Questions:**

What uncomfortable truths did Nicodemus have to face in his encounter with Jesus?

If you are willing share some uncomfortable truths you had to face when encountering Jesus.

#### **Thought:**

In our faith journey, we often need outside help to move us forward. If we did not have that previous lesion or those people in our lives ahead of time then we would not have been ready to take a step forward.

#### **Question:**

Looking back, do you see some things you learned or people who helped you grow before a big step of faith?

#### **Thought:**

Pharisees were religious leaders who had dedicated their lives to better know and serve God. A challenging and noble calling, but often we see Jesus challenge these leaders in the Bible. Sometimes the things we think we know can keep us from seeing what God is trying to reveal to us.

**Read:** Numbers 21:4-9

#### **Questions:**

What were or what could have been Nicodemus’ challenges in understanding what Jesus was trying to show him?

#### *I will statement...*

Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. As disciples this helps us to be changed by Jesus. Put it in the form, “I Will \_\_\_\_\_”. Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.