International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
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How to Enter the Kingdom of God
John 3:1-10

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3—KJV).

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3—NASB).

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above" (John 3:3—NRSV).

When Nicodemus talked with Jesus at night, Jesus told him that he needed to be born again or born from above to see and enter the kingdom of God. In John 18:36, Jesus described the kingdom of God when He talked to Pilate and said that His kingdom was not of this world or from this world. That being the case, many might not have any interest in seeing or entering the kingdom of God. But think further. In Romans 14:17, the Apostle Paul explained the kingdom of God in these words, "For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." The kingdom of God is not material, having to do with food and drink, but spiritual. Those who are born again receive confirmation from the Holy Spirit and the Bible that they are right with God, and they know that with the help of the Holy Spirit they can live right with God forever. Those who are born

from above have peace with God, live at peace within themselves, and live at peace with others (as far as possible in this world). Those who are born again become children of God, and they live in Jesus' kingdom, the kingdom of God, with the true joy that only the Holy Spirit can give. In John 1:12, we learn how to be born again: we must receive Jesus Christ and believe in His name, the Son of God. In John 12:26, Jesus promised, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also."

Thinking Further

1. How did John describe Nicodemus?

2. What did Nicodemus believe about Jesus?

3. What must happen before someone can see the kingdom of God?

4. What do you think it means to be born of water and Spirit?

5. How much must someone know about how a person is born again before they can be born again?

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