



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:  
Believe & Be Baptized Week 1: February 17, 2019**

Recap:

- The Kingdom of God is the way the world is supposed to be and the way we are supposed to be. It's where love, joy, peace, unity, and forgiveness come from. Following Jesus is about reorienting our lives in a way that ushers in the Kingdom of God rather than standing in the way of it. It's about learning a new way to live our lives. Jesus describes this as being born again.
- Jesus does not condemn us. We condemn ourselves.
- Finding life in God isn't a battle we have to win. Jesus did that for us on the cross. Jesus invites us to follow him into a new life, a life given freely to us.
- Jesus' way may look difficult from the sidelines, but as we start to walk the journey of faith and belief, each step becomes easier than the last.

Discuss:

1. READ Mark 16:15-16
2. What do you think is the gospel (good news) that Christians are supposed to preach?
3. The monk Francis of Assisi took "all creation" literally and preached to animals. What do you think "all creation" entails? What do you think it means to "preach to all creation"?
4. READ John 3:1-17
5. The Greek word "again" in verse 3 can be translated as "again" and also "from above." How is this double meaning of the word appropriate for what Jesus calls for?
6. Jesus says that those who enter the Kingdom of God must be born of water and the Spirit. What do you think he means here?
7. Jesus says that you cannot tell where those who are born of the Spirit are coming from or where they are going, but you can experience the Spirit in them. How do you understand these verses? Do you find comfort in them?
8. John 3:16 is one of the most famous verses. Why do you think this verse has such influence?
9. Do you view faith and believing as getting easier as you go? Are there harder times than others? When do those happen?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Jesus Being Lifted Up

- Numbers 21:4-9
- 2 Kings 18:1-4
- John 12:20-36