



## INTRODUCTION / WEEK 4 / March 10, 11 & 14

This week we hear how Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark of night wondering how Jesus could possibly be the Son of God. Nicodemus saw the miracles and signs Jesus had performed, but Jesus just didn't fit the mold. Jesus came from the wrong background. He didn't look or act like the Messiah was supposed to look and act. Jesus came to re-imagine what it means to be a part of God's family. He came to *burst* all the preconceived notions we have of what it means to be a child of God. No one will ever be abandoned by this God of ours.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the people you most naturally gravitate toward? Who are the people you find it easiest to be around? Name them. Why are they so easy to be around?
2. Describe the people you find more difficult to spend time with? What makes them more difficult to be around?
3. What makes some people easy to love and others harder to love?
4. Read the story of Nicodemus in **John 3:1-17**. What do you find out about him in verses 1-2? What do you think is significant about him coming to Jesus? Why do you think he come at night?
5. Nicodemus is a lead Pharisee — people of the Jewish faith who loved the laws — and so he's one of the least likely people to be curious about Jesus. What do you think he is trying to figure out about Jesus in verse 2?
6. Jesus redirects Nicodemus' curiosity and enters into a larger conversation about the kingdom of God. The "kingdom of God" is how Jesus describes the community and life Jesus wants for us here on earth. In the story, what does Jesus say about how one becomes a part of the Kingdom of God?
7. In worship we watched a video called, "**Moral Circle**": <https://groupleaders.org/leader-training-feed/2017/1/30/the-moral-circle>
8. What do you think of the video? Is it accurate?
9. What one group of people do you find difficult to relate to or be around because they would normally fall outside of your moral circle? Why do you find it difficult to interact with that group?
10. What are some practical things you can do to get past your discomfort and extend radical hospitality to those you don't feel a natural connection?
11. How do you think you and our church could better reflect the values expressed in that video?

## PRAYER

Loving God, it is very common to feel abandoned and fearful in this crazy and mixed up world. Empower us, Loving God, to cry out to you with whatever needs and fears we may have. Assure us of your love and presence so we may be filled with your peace that passes all understanding. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.