

8th Sunday after Pentecost, July 14, Study Guide

Why Am I Here?



Key Themes

Embrace Uncertainty and Change: Just as Nicodemus had to grapple with the unexpected teachings of Jesus, we too must be open to the unpredictable nature of God's Spirit. Our faith journey involves constant transformation.

Purpose Through Connection: Our purpose is about who we are in relation to God. We are loved by God not for our achievements but simply because we are God's children. This foundational relationship gives our lives meaning and direction, even when our roles or tasks change.

Navigating Seasons of Directionlessness: Feeling lost or directionless is a common experience, but it is also an opportunity for growth. Like Nicodemus, we should remain curious and keep asking questions.

Thriving Through Transformation: Thriving comes from being open to the radical transformation that Jesus offers. Being "born anew" means allowing the Holy Spirit to continually reshape our lives, leading us from darkness to light, from feeling lost to finding purpose, and from surviving to thriving.

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-8

John 1:1-5

Discussion Questions

- *How did Jesus challenge Nicodemus' understanding of being "born anew"?*
- *What does the metaphor of the wind in John 3:8 suggest about the nature of the Holy Spirit?*
- *Why do you think Nicodemus, a well-educated Pharisee, struggled with Jesus' teaching about being born anew?*
- *How does the concept of being "born anew" relate to the idea of constant, unpredictable change led by the Holy Spirit?*
- *How can the idea of doing the "next most faithful thing" help us navigate seasons of uncertainty in our lives?*

Reflection

- *Reflect on a time when you felt directionless. How did you seek guidance, and what did you learn from that experience?*
- *Identify a specific area in your life where you feel lost or in the dark. What steps can you take to seek God's guidance and light in that area?*
- *Think about a current challenge or decision you are facing. What is the "next most faithful thing" you can do to align yourself with God's will?*
- *What practical steps can you take to move from surviving to thriving in your spiritual journey?*