

**NORTHLAND  
CHURCH**

**MAY 11-13, 2019**

# **AWAKEN**

**When Life Begins**

**John 3:1-15**

# New life

This week we're studying the difference between religion and the faithful practice of following Jesus.

## WATCH THE VIDEO

### [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies)

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



## Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

***Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.***

- What do you think of when you think of religion?
- When have you seen religion be a force for good in the world? When have you seen religion be a force for evil?

## Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

### READ JOHN 3:1-15 (NIV) & ROMANS 8:12-17 (NLT)

- What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that someone would have to do before they could see the kingdom of God?
- What family are we adopted into when we're "born again" and led by the Spirit?
- What is the family you were born into in your physical birth? What are the limitations of that family?
- What is the family that Jesus told us we'd be born into in our spiritual birth? What is the life that family offers? (See Romans 6:23, Revelation 21:1-6 or Romans 5:20-21 for more insight on that life.)
- When have you experienced the limitations of the power of sin or just a physical life?
- When have you experienced the power of the Spirit in your life? After experiencing that second birth, where have you found new freedom in life?
- Where is a place you need to experience the power of the Spirit this week?

***Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.***

## Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

**Jesus called and invited us to be born again. Like with our first birth, that second birth carried with it a notion of new life and new family. Jesus told us that when we're born again, we're born of the Spirit and born into the eternal and abundant life that comes from the power of God. But that second birth also grafts us into the family of God. We're adopted into His family as His children. And we're marked forever as children of God as surely as our first birth marked us as children of our biological parents.**

### READ GALATIANS 3:26-29 (NIV)

- What are the ways we still divide ourselves within the family of God?
- What does it mean when the apostle Paul said there is no division for those who belong to Christ?
- What are some of the ways you still exclude yourself from full participation in the family of God? Who could help you experience and embrace the grace that brought you adoption as a child of God more fully?

### READ REVELATION 21:1-7 (NLT)

- What is the picture painted here of eternal life for the children of God?
- What hope do you take from the promise of a future without death, sorrow, crying or pain?
- Who is someone in your life who might want that future for themselves? How could you share the hope of Jesus with someone thirsty for more life?

**This week's study is also available on Northland's apps  
or at [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies).**