

CG Guide
Identify: New Life
Week 3

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Start with adoration of God: Verbally, as a group proclaim who God is in adoration. “God you are Holy,” “God you are _____.” Do this until there has been time for everyone to participate. Allow for some silent moments.

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Discuss: In what ways are you looking for a better life?

Read: John 3:1-8 NIV Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” 3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.[a]” 4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[c] must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”[d]

Read: 1 Peter 1:21-23 NLT - "21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. 22 You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. 23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."

1. What does it mean to be born again?
2. Why do we need to be born again?
3. How can we be born again?
4. What is the evidence of being born again?

Look through the following chart. Which of these do you identify with? Which ones are growth areas?

	Cultural Christian	Born-Again Christian
1	^Cultural Christians haven't received the Holy Spirit, because they haven't declared Jesus as Lord	Born-again Christians have been filled with the Holy Spirit
2	^Cultural Christians easily justify or normalize sin	Born-again Christians are convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit
3	*Cultural Christians may view Christianity as a means of moralism or a "good way to live."	Born-again Christians view it as a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
4	*Cultural Christians is a family or social identity, but their life does not align with Christian beliefs	Born-again Christian's beliefs are based on the Bible, and they strive to live their life according to its teachings
5	^Cultural Christians base salvation on how good or bad they are in God's eyes.	Born-again Christians believe salvation is by faith in Jesus alone, by the grace of God alone.
6	^Cultural Christians often only pray in emergencies	Born-again Christians see prayer as a way to spend time with God in relational conversation
7	^Cultural Christians view the Bible as good advice.	Born-again Christians view the Bible as the inspired, authoritative word of God that they strive to live by

Read: Galatians 2:19-20 NIV - "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Apply: With all that you have read and discussed, how can the group help you to live out your identity as a born-again Christian?

Read together

I Am Statement:

I am made in the image and likeness of God; I will live out his purpose as my own.

I am chosen and holy; I will live out God's holiness in my life.

I am a new person in Christ; I live by faith in Him.

Pray: Confession: God, I admit my need to be redeemed and forgiven in your sight. I have been worshiping and giving honor to things instead of you. I

confess that I don't live according to the identity you have given me. Please help me to live out my new life in Christ.