

**NORTHLAND
CHURCH**

MAY 11-13, 2019

AWAKEN

When Life Begins

John 3:1-15

When Life Begins

A message from Matt Heard, Lead Pastor

Read about Pastor Matt at northlandchurch.net/pastormatt.

JOHN 3:1-15 (NIV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

³Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He 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.”

³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

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!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

New life

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

WATCH THE VIDEO

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.

What's Current

Get info and sign up at NorthlandChurch.net, or ask a connection team member for assistance.

Fully Alive 5K

SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7:30 A.M. | MEET IN THE FRONT PARKING LOT | Register at northlandchurch.net/fullyalive5k

Local Serve Day

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 8 A.M.-NOON | MEET IN THE FOYER | Sign up at northlandchurch.net/localserve

Student Ministries Summer Programming

FUSION (MIDDLE SCHOOL) | CREW NIGHTS (HIGH SCHOOL) | Sign up at northlandchurch.net/students

Looking for the latest classes & events?

Check them out at northlandchurch.net/calendar or grab an "Engage" magazine.

Tithes and Offerings



We are so thankful that many of you continue to respond to God's generosity in your lives through the giving of your time, talents, and treasures as part of your worship. We invite everyone to join in as we work together ... *engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus!*

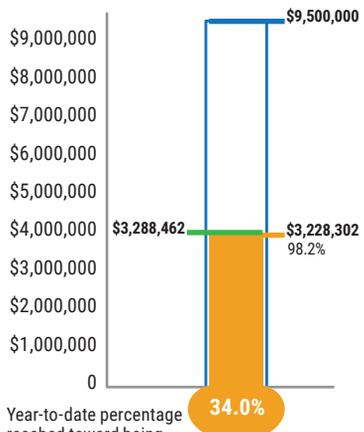
We recently updated the chart to the right. Now we can track year-to-date progress as well as where we stand on fully funding 2019. Our goal for tithes and offerings is \$10 million, with our budget set at \$9.5 million. While actual and budgeted amounts fluctuate from week to week, the average weekly budgeted amount is \$182,693.

Our tithes and offerings for last week was \$190,679. We ended the first 18 weeks of the year at 98.2% of the need. With 34 weeks remaining, we should be 34.6% funded. As you can see, we are 34.0% funded. Your generosity has greatly reduced the budget deficit we were facing just a few weeks ago. In fact, we are now only \$1.43 per week, per giver behind being fully funded!

If you would like to partner with us financially, check out the different ways to give listed below. If you have questions or would like more information about our finances, email givetonorthland@northlandchurch.net. We are honored to have you joining us in worship today!

January 1 - May 7, 2019

- Plan/Budget
- Budget to Date
- Actual Giving



Year-to-date percentage reached toward being fully funded.

Ways to Give

Give by cash or check and drop it in any of our tithe boxes.



Give online at NorthlandChurch.net/Give or use the Northland App.



Give via mobile text. Text "northland" followed by the amount to 77977 (e.g. northland 10).

