

## Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

**Date of Sermon:** January 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Title:** Spirit of Mission: Born of the Spirit

**Introduction:** The 'Spirit of Mission' series of talks intends to inspire us to see the importance of the work of the Spirit in our own attempts to share our faith and talk about Jesus. This talk explores the foundation of 'being born again' to

**Review:** Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

**Read:** John 3:1-15

**Reflect:**

- If someone asked you if you were a 'born again' Christian:
  - what would you think they were trying to find out?
  - what would you say?
  
- In the popular media an apparent distinction is drawn between 'born-again' Christians and other sorts of Christians. How do you think Jesus would have responded to that idea? How do you respond?
  
- Jesus says that to *see* the kingdom of God (v3) or to *enter* the kingdom of God (v5) it is necessary to be born again.
  - How do you understand the connection that Jesus makes between 'seeing' or 'entering the kingdom', and being a Christian? Are they the same thing - or is entering God's kingdom something different? (Do these passages help: Colossians 1:13,14; 1 Peter 2:9,10?).
  - Imagine that the idea of being born again into a new kingdom might be a bit like taking on the citizenship of a new country. You now have different rights and responsibilities from those you had in your country of birth. All of the benefit system of your new country is now at your disposal, as well as the laws of the land being different. How does this image fit with what it means to become a Christian?
  
- How many parallels can you think of between being born as a baby (in the flesh - v6a) and being born in the Spirit (v6b)?
  
- How easy does Jesus say it is to explain *how* one is born again? (v8)
  - The new birth in Spirit is God's inexplicable work - but do we have a part to play? (see Acts 2:38 and John 1:12,13).

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**Leaders:** feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but  
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond  
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

## Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- What do you think the connection is between being born again of the Spirit, and being a fruitful witness for Jesus in everyday life? (see John 7:37-39).
  - Can anyone give an illustration from their own experience of what it means to naturally overflow with the life of Jesus on their frontline?

Pray for one another in the light of your conversation.

### And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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