The Holy Spirit, Lesson 1

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US NEW BIRTH

John 3:3,5–8

Key Verse: 3:5

1. Review the kind of person Nicodemus was and why it was hard for him to accept Jesus’ teaching (3:1,4,10). In what ways can you identify with his problems?
2. Read 3:3. In this verse, the word “see” means “experience.” What does it mean to “see”/ “experience” the kingdom of God? (see Lk17:20–21 and footnote; also, Ro14:17) Try to imagine what Nicodemus’ life was like when he did not see/experience God’s kingdom.
3. Read verse 5. What does it mean to be “born of water and the Spirit”? (To understand, read also Matthew 3:11 and Acts 2:38.) What did Jesus teach in verses 6–8 about being “born of the Spirit”? What did he want us to learn from his analogy of the wind in verse 8? Why did a person like Nicodemus need to hear this?
4. Read 1:12–13; compare with Luke 3:8b–9. What can we learn here about how people thought they became God’s children, and how anyone is truly “born of God”? What false securities might we need to let go of today in order to experience the birth of the Spirit?

1. For the other Biblical descriptions of the Holy Spirit’s role in our conversion, see: Ro2:29; 5:5; 8:15–16; 1Co6:11; 2Co1:22; 5:5; Eph1:13–14; 2Th2:13; Tit3:5; 1Pe1:2. What similarities can we find here?
2. In light of the above study, why is it so important to know that it is the Holy Spirit who brings about our new birth? (2Co4:7; Gal3:2–4)