John 3:1

(1)

Think about John 3:1-3.

... there was a man ... named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi (master), we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

- 1. How did Nicodemus describe Jesus?
- 2. Why did people know Jesus had come from God?
- 3. What did Jesus respond to Nicodemus?
- 4. What do you think the kingdom of God is?

(2)

Note: Nicodemus and the Jewish people knew the prophecies about the kingdom of God. About 400 years before Jesus was born, there lived a Jewish prophet named Daniel. God gave him a dream, and Daniel wrote down the visions he saw as he lay in his bed. This passage is one of Daniel's visions describing God giving his kingdom to the man who was worthy to be the king.

Think about Daniel 7:13-14.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion (the right to rule) and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- 1. To whom does God (the Ancient of Days) give his kingdom?
- 2. Who will serve the king of God's kingdom?
- 3. How long does the kingdom of God last?
- 4. Has the kingdom of God already come in the way described here?

Think about John 3:3-7.

Jesus answered him (Nicodemus), "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

- 1. What is necessary in order to see the kingdom of God?
- 2. Why is this necessary? (1Corinthians 15:50)
- 3. What are the two births that Jesus speaks of?

(4)

Think about John 1:12-13.

... to all who did receive him (Jesus), who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born ... of God.

Think about 1John 5:1.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, ...

1. How does one become born of God?