



Born Again!
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kidmania™

NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was *Born Again!*

This parent info sheet can be used by you at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children and help them to get the most out of it.

The 'main ideas' section of this parent info sheet has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful discussion with your children. This week the questions build one on another.

To help your children really share what is in their hearts and minds with you, and so YOU can actively build faith and wisdom into them, when it comes to the 'Ask' points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond and really show them you are listening and that you understand.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church
God bless you!



Family Ice Breaker - Wriggle Race!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as Jennifer and Therese had a wriggle race.

You might like to have a wriggle race at home.

You could do as we did and wrap the girls in a disposable table cover and tape. You could simply say that racers' arms must remain by their sides (palms of hands on legs), legs together, and wriggle along. If you did not want to wriggle along the ground on bellies, you could race taking the same position vertically, and jumping.

Whatever you do, have fun!



Scripture Memory Verses - to read and memorise at meal times

[use any version you like; we have provided the Amplified Version (AMP) in the Scripture readings in the family discussion notes as it has built into it much explanation. For memorisation (below) we have provided the simpler *New Living Translation (NLT)*]

John 3:1-9

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Discussion introduction:

Ask: Have you ever looked around at God's creation and been amazed?

If YES, ask: What in God's creation amazes you, and why?

Ask: How amazing is a caterpillar and a butterfly? Can you tell me about it? [*caterpillar to go to butterfly – totally new creature, not a caterpillar with some added features.]*

Say: God is a great Creator. He created the caterpillar to live a whole life of their own, and then to be totally transformed so they are not a caterpillar anymore, but a butterfly which will live another whole life. Same creature, but two lives and two separate creatures! Jesus created us to have more than one life too...let's read about it...

Scripture: John 3:1-9

Say: In John 3:1-9 it says: **Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (member of the Sanhedrin) among the Jews, who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, "Rabbi (Teacher), we know without any doubt that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs, these wonders, these attesting miracles that You do unless God is with him."**

Jesus answered him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again (reborn from above, spiritually transformed, renewed, and sanctified) he cannot ever see and experience the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother's womb a second time and be born, can he?"

Jesus answered, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot ever enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh (the physical is merely physical), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised that I have told you, 'You must be born again (reborn from above - spiritually transformed, renewed & sanctified).' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be possible?"

Ask: Can we be born again, from our mothers? [*No!]*

Ask: What do we need to do to enter the Kingdom of God? [*Be born again.]*

Ask: Why can't we? [*we are too big to fit / how would we get out again? / it is not possible.]*

Ask: Do you think Jesus meant we should be born again from our mothers, or do you think He meant something else? What did He mean? [*allow different perspectives to be expressed – after all, this is a very hard thing to understand - discuss.]*

Say: We cannot literally (physically) be born again, but we can figuratively (spiritually) be born again. This is a situation where Jesus is telling us a deep spiritual truth using an earthly example. We all know what it means to be created/born. So it is something we can understand spiritually, too. Our body was born with our spirit in it, but we were born with our spirit disconnected from God. Our spirit needs to come alive, like being woken up for the first time, and seeing the world for the first time... like we came alive as babies who grew in our mother's womb and then we were born and saw the world and began to understand. It is the spirit part of us that needs to be reborn, not our body. When we go to be with Jesus in Heaven, that is when we will get our new perfect body to match our spirit that knows God.

Ask: Can you tell me about what I just said? Can you tell me how you understand it? [*this is a difficult concept, so discuss this with them until they understand it well enough to explain it back to you. Reassure them that many people have trouble understanding this truth. Because Jesus taught it and provided this example, as well as caterpillars and butterflies in creation, to help us to understand, it is important to spend time understanding it.]*

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: We all need to be born again. None of us are good enough to go to Heaven. Not Adam and Eve and not us.

Ask: Do you remember the story of Adam and Eve and how they sinned? Can you tell me about it? [in the beginning, Adam and Eve were perfect and they had a great connection to God and spent lots of time with Him. They knew they could trust Him until the serpent came into the garden and told them they should not. The serpent convinced Eve to eat what was forbidden (kept special for God alone) and Adam decided to eat it too because he decided he did not trust God anymore. Because of that their nature changed so that their connection with God was broken and they were not perfect anymore. They had to leave the special perfect place, and when they had their own children and all their children had more children, they were all born imperfect and without the special connection with God - the entire human race, and that includes us.]

Ask: But God had a plan to save them and make the connection again; can you tell me what it was?

Say: God sent His perfect Son Jesus (who was with Him when the world was made and Adam and Eve were made) in the form of a man, to teach us and then pay the price for our sins, and reconnect us to God. The only way to be reconnected to God is through Jesus, and placing our faith in Him, and then following Him. The Bible calls this 'being born again', 'being saved', and 'becoming a new creation.' We, the SPIRITUALLY DEAD come back to life.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Say: In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ (grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior), they are a new creature (reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit); the old things (the previous moral and spiritual condition) have passed away. Behold, new things have come (because spiritual awakening brings a new life).**

Ask: Where is the caterpillar when the chrysalis opens up? [totally gone!]

Ask: Where are all the sins of the person God has forgiven? [totally gone!]

Ask: What you we need to do to be forgiven and be made new? [believe in Jesus as Savior, and follow Him!]

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:26-27

Say: In Ezekiel 36:26-27 it says: **Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My ordinances (teachings and commandments) and do them.**

Say: When we say YES to Jesus He gives us a new nature that can continue to say YES to Him. And then, as we follow Jesus God makes us a new creation. He softens our heart towards Him, and helps us to change to be more like Jesus.

Ask: Can you think of something that has changed in your heart since you have learned more about Jesus and started to follow Him? [if they are having trouble thinking of something remind them of what you have observed in them over the last few months as you have watched Kidmania Online together, and spent time talking about God together, e.g. caring about people so that they pray when they see an ambulance, say sorry and mean it when they realise they have done the wrong thing, etc.]

Say: I am very different since placing my faith in Jesus and being BORN AGAIN, having my heart softened by God, and following Jesus. [share a story of your own e.g. what you believe differently about, having less of a temper, being more patient, being more forgiving, having a better attitude even when things seem unfair, being able to trust God when it is hard to, having less or no fear in situations you would usually be afraid, etc.]

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Going deeper!

Say: HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN?

[if any of these things aren't happening then encourage them that as they give their heart to Jesus and choose to obey Him, they will change - it can take time. Do not let them be discouraged...this is something for them to look forward to.]

Say: 1. You've said YES to Jesus, you believe He died for you, and He is coming back for you.

Ask: Do you remember the video at the end of Kidmania Online today - how the caterpillar was transformed into the butterfly? Do you remember the statement, and the question?

Say: It was: Anyone who wants to enter the Kingdom of God must be born again. Are you born again?

Ask: Are you born again? [this is a great opportunity to pray a prayer of salvation if they have not done it before, or they are unsure and would like to make sure. You could lead them in a simple prayer of asking Jesus into their hearts, to change them from being sinners (with no hope) to a new creature who will become more like Jesus every day and then live with God forever.]

Ask: So, have we said YES to Jesus? Did He die for us? Is He coming back for us? [YES!]

Say: 2. You will begin to love the things God loves, and hate the things God hates (like sin).

Ask: What do you no longer like because it is not something God likes? [stealing, swearing, fighting, gossiping, lying, etc.]

Ask: What do you love because God loves it? [other people, serving, worship, reading the Bible, etc.]

Say: 3. You will want to obey God.

Say: This does not come naturally, as we are all born wanting our own way, and wanting to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.

Ask: How have you chosen to obey God lately? How did you feel when you did?

Say: I want to obey God. It is not always easy, but I choose to as much as I can. This week I really wanted to obey God in... [share the situation as how you obeyed and then how you felt.]

Say: 4. You will want to know God's ways, by reading the Bible.

Ask: Do you like to read the Bible and know things about God and Jesus?

If YES, ask: What is your favorite Bible story? What have you learned from Jesus?

Say: I love to read the Bible. My favorite Bible story is... [share briefly] and the lesson from Jesus I like most is... [share briefly]

Say: 5. You will want to spend time in God's presence (like when you pray, and worship).

Ask: What do you most about praying? What do you like most about worshipping.

Say: I love to spend time in God's presence. What I love most about worship is... [share briefly] Right now my favorite praise/worship song is... [share briefly] I've been praying about... [share briefly]

Sum up:

Say: Say after me: * I believe in Jesus! * I am born again! * I am a new creation!
* I am becoming more and more like Jesus!

Let's Pray!

Dear Heavenly Father... Thank You that You have given me a fresh start since believing in Your Son Jesus. Thank You that my spirit is now alive and connected to You. Thank You that you have made my heart soft, so I can love You and others, and follow Jesus. Help me to live the life that You have planned for me, because I know it is good. Please keep transforming me from the inside out so I can be more and more like Jesus, and then come to Heaven to be with You always ...in Jesus' name, Amen!