

The following are discussion questions based on the sermon by Pastor Michael Turner entitled “Reborn.” This sermon was preached on May 17th and is the second of a seven-part series on the Gospel of John. These questions can be used as a resource to guide discussion after viewing the message from our pastors. We hope these will be a great resource for you as you come together to dig deeper into God’s word.

1. What do you think was the main point of Michael’s “Reborn” sermon?
2. With regard to the computer illustration Pastor Michael used: What, in your opinion, is the difference between a “spiritual reboot” and a “spiritual reformatting?”
3. What do you think Jesus meant by “you must be born again?” (John 3:7)
4. What do we know about Nicodemus?
5. Why do you think Nicodemus had difficulty understanding this concept?
6. Where do you think United Methodists, and especially John Wesley, stand/stood on being “born again?”
7. Why do you think many of today’s churches seem to avoid preaching about this?
8. Pastor Michael quoted Bishop Will Willimon on Sunday, “One of the hardest things about preaching is convincing the middle to upper-middle class people, to whom most of you will preach, that they need to be saved. They have their Master’s degrees and their 401Ks. They’re good at doing good. They’re not drug dealers or murderers, so it’s hard to persuade them that we all need to be born again.” It seems that it was similarly difficult for Nicodemus to recognize his need for rebirth. In your experience, what are the obstacles for the people you know that prevent them from seeing their need to be “born again?”
9. From this passage (John 3:1-20) and what we read in other parts of scripture (see scripture references below), what do you think a person needs to “do” to be “born again?”
10. How does “accepting and living out this promise” change the way we live and look at life?

Scripture References:

John 3:1-20;
Romans 3:23; 6:23; 8:1,2; 10:9,10;
Ephesians 2:8,9;
1 Timothy 1:15;
Titus 3:6-8