**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**July 8th 2018. Truth encounters**

**Discussion notes: Nicodemus. John 3**

The gospels give us stories of Jesus encountering all kinds of people. Jesus who comes ‘full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14) speaks truth into the lives of people he meets. The ultimate truth is that Jesus is ‘the only begotten son of God’. Perhaps the most famous verse in the Bible is in this chapter, John 3:16.

1. Signs and wonders have got Nicodemus’ attention (v 2). What clues are there as to who he thinks Jesus is in this verse?
2. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night?
3. We are very familiar with the phrase ‘born again’? Why was Nicodemus so confused by this? What does the phrase mean to you?
4. The wind blows where it will v 8. This metaphor is often used to talk about the Spirit, but Jesus says it is about someone ‘born of the Spirit’. How does this challenge establish religious leaders like Nicodemus?
5. *Born again by water and the Spirit.* How do these elements come together in Christian initiation?
6. How would you explain to someone what it means to be born again?

Sometimes big truths are hard to share. We need models and pictures to help us imagine things (like atomic structure, or the insights of quantum physics).Neil Edbrooke says ‘sometimes, as when we are doing Maths at school, we want the correct answer, but the teacher is more interested in understanding how to work the answer out’.

How hard is it to explain spiritual truth to people with words? How can we help one another to get better at this?