

# WEEK TWO

MARCH 5 - MARCH 11

**This week's reading:** John 2:23-3:17

## Sunday, March 5, 2023

**Read:** “How can these things be?” (John 3:9, Nicodemus to Jesus)

**Reflect:** Nicodemus, a teacher and priest, comes to Jesus laden with questions. What confuses you about faith, church, or the Bible?

**Pray:** Jesus, why do I struggle to understand what you seem to make so simple?

**Practice:** Do something you're already good at. Are you great at math or reading? Do you love to discuss politics, cars, or food? Find a way to do what you do well today.

## Monday, March 6, 2023

**Read:** “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?” (John 3:10, Jesus to Nicodemus)

**Reflect:** In his conversation with Jesus, Nicodemus has connected *understanding* and *belief*. But the two do not need to go together. For your Christian faith, what mysteries need no more explanation?

**Pray:** God, which of my beliefs prevent me from discovering a deeper relationship with you?

**Practice:** Look for signs of something you know exists but that you can't see: gravity, wind, microorganisms.

## Tuesday, March 7, 2023

**Read:** “How can anyone be born after having grown old?” (John 3:4, Nicodemus to Jesus)

**Reflect:** Can you think of a time when you or someone you know has experienced renewal, found new purpose, or rediscovered an old passion—a time when someone has “been born after having grown old”?

**Pray:** Jesus, how have you made me new today?

**Practice:** Take a walk outside and look for signs of new life: buds on branches, green shoots or bulbs peeping up, new nests.

## Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**Read:** “Can anyone enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?” (John 3:4, Nicodemus to Jesus)

**Reflect:** Nicodemus struggles to apply regular logic to the strangeness of Jesus' teachings. What parts of Christian faith or theology have you needed time to comprehend? About which do you still have questions?

**Pray:** Holy Spirit, if I wait longer, will you help me understand? If not, can you help me live with the things beyond my understanding?

**Practice:** Explore a mystery. Watch a movie or documentary. Read a book or article. If possible, choose something that doesn't tie up neatly, and notice what it feels like to acknowledge that uncertainty.

## Thursday, March 9, 2023

**Read:** "If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?" (John 3:10, Jesus to Nicodemus)

**Reflect:** Nicodemus was an educated, powerful man. But when he talked to Jesus he felt flummoxed, even a bit out of his depth. Can you recall a time when encountering God left you feeling incompetent, unqualified, or out of your depth?

**Pray:** Jesus, have you seen me pull away from you because I feel incompetent?

**Practice:** Try something new today, something that doesn't come naturally to you. If you're not much of a cook, try a simple recipe. If you're not much of an athlete, go on a walk. Read a book about an unfamiliar topic. Try sudoku or a crossword puzzle.

## Friday, March 10, 2023

**Read:** "I lift my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?" (Psalm 121:1)

**Reflect:** Questions drove the psalmist to God, from whom the psalmist received comfort and certainty. When you bring your concerns to God, do you feel more like Nicodemus—even more confused—or more like the psalmist, who felt comforted with renewed certainty?

**Pray:** God, where can I look to find you today?

**Practice:** Listen to or play some music that reminds you of God's presence. It doesn't need to be church music.

## Saturday, March 11, 2023

**Question jar:** Take time—as an individual or with others in your household—to draw and explore at least one question from your question jar today. Refresh your jar with some new questions.