



Week 3: Never Settle For Knowing About Jesus

Mark Clark // August 2, 2026

We all have beliefs we've held for a long time—ideas about God, ourselves, and how life works. The longer we hold them, the harder they are to question. But what if some of our deepest assumptions are actually keeping us from experiencing the life God truly wants for us? In one of the most important conversations recorded in Scripture, Jesus invites a deeply religious man to let go of what he thinks he knows and embrace something entirely new—and his invitation is the same for us today.

Scripture: [John 3:1-8 NIV](#)

Bottom Line: Never settle for knowing *about* Jesus when you can truly *know* him.

Digging In:

1. Have you ever been convinced you were right about something, only to discover you were completely wrong? What happened?
2. If someone asked you to explain the difference between “being religious” and “having a relationship with God,” how would you answer?
3. Read John 3:1-8 aloud together. Why do you think Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night? What might this reveal about his spiritual journey?
4. Mark discussed our tendency to become “accidental Pharisees.” What does this mean? Have you ever experienced this in your own life or in others close to you?
5. Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be “born again.” How does this image help explain what it does/doesn't mean to become a Christ follower?
6. Mark talked about the difference between rules and relationship. Why is it possible to know a lot about God without actually knowing him?
7. Have there been seasons where your faith felt more like checking boxes than actually walking with Jesus? What contributed to that?
8. What practices help you experience God personally rather than simply learning about him?
9. Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to the wind in this passage. What does this image teach us about how God works in our lives?
10. How have you seen God's “wind” changing your desires, attitudes, or priorities over time?

11. Mark challenged us to consider what we truly treasure in life. What competes for first place in your heart right now?
12. If someone watched your life closely this week, what evidence would they see that you're being transformed by Jesus?

Moving Forward:

This week, spend a few moments each day asking a simple question: *Jesus, where are you inviting me into a deeper relationship with you?* Instead of focusing on doing more for God, focus on being with him. As you read Scripture, pray, or go about your day, look for the quiet ways the Holy Spirit is shaping your heart and changing your desires.

Prayer Prompt:

Invite everyone to sit quietly. Say this:

As you breathe in, silently pray: "Holy Spirit...

As you breathe out, silently pray: ...make me new."

Repeat this slowly four or five times. Then close:

Jesus, thank you that new life is your gift, not something we earn. Continue your transforming work in us this week. Amen.