



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 3

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- Sports Victory Clip: Search on a video-sharing Web site such as YouTube for a short video clip of a climactic sports victory. Use search terms such as *walk-off home run* or *buzzer-beaters*. You may also be able to get a clip from your students. Be sure the clip shows some fan pandemonium.
- Baby pictures of your students to project (Ask for these from parents ahead of time.)

### 2. Optional Openings

#### MOVIE CLIP

Show a clip of the last few seconds of a World Series or a series of buzzer-beaters. Show the final out or the clock ticking down, followed by pandemonium as the players celebrate. This clip won't have an immediate tie-in to the talk, but will make sense when you get into God's Perspective under Digging In.

#### VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Gather some baby pictures of students before your talk (parents love to send baby pictures), scan them, and prepare a three-to-four-minute photo presentation. (Bonus points for adding an appropriate background song!) This should have the girls "ooing" and "aahing," while the guys laugh.

#### QUOTATIONS

Share the following quotation to introduce the idea of new birth and change:

**When I was born I was so surprised that I didn't talk for a year and a half.**  
—Gracie Allen (1895–1964, comedienne and comic partner to husband George Burns)

### 3. Digging In

Continue with—

**Maybe you have a little brother or sister and had a chance to be at the hospital when he or she was born. If so, you know that when a baby is born, everything changes! You see all kinds of "congratulations" going around, and sometimes an overwhelmed father who doesn't know what to do next. The bottom line is, this is the day of birth—the birthday that's more important than the many that follow, the first! What just happened is every bit as much a miracle as Jesus walking on the water or calming a storm. It's the miracle of life!**

## PERSONAL STORY

Share a story about a new beginning or turning point in your life—a time when everything changed, such as the birth of a child, changing jobs, or moving to a new school or city. Here's an example:

**I was in the drive-through lane at Arby's when Annie, my wife, gave me a card. I immediately wondered what occasion I'd forgotten. It turns out that I didn't miss anything. She was giving me a "just because" card. However, there was a slight difference between this card and any other "just because" card I've received. This one had a pregnancy test taped to it. A positive test result. I would be a father. My wife would be a mother. My father would now be a grandfather, my brother would be an uncle—so many things changed that day! Nine months later, Griffin was born. We stood around the hospital birthing room nervous and excited, scared and hopeful. It was a thousand emotions in a few seconds. Everything changed for me that day. There were moments when the doctors spoke hurriedly to the nurses, and I wanted to yell out, "What's wrong?!" It was incredibly tense—beyond nerve-wracking.**

**In a weird kind of way, it was like being at the city wrestling championships. Our team was highly ranked, but it all came down to the final heavyweight match. We were nervous, tense, excited, hopeful. We had a few hundred fans in the crowd, and they were all on their feet. When it became more and more likely that our heavyweight was going to win his match, people started to cheer. You could feel their spirits lifting. Eventually he won, and the place erupted. We were city champs. For the rest of our lives we could point to that moment and tell the story of our championship. Everything didn't change that day, but it sure felt great. We were the city champions that year, and that will never change.**

Continue with—

**John 3:1-3 and 16-21 says—**

**Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."**

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."**

## OPTIONAL MIX-INS

*-In the Bible text for this talk, you'll use a phrase that's become pretty cliché in recent days: "born again."*

*-The Greek word translated "again" (anōthen), as in "born again," can also be translated "from above" (see John 3:31 and 19:11). In Jesus' day, this word meant "anew" or "from the beginning."<sup>1</sup>*

*-In John's Gospel, he uses the word anōthen to convey a strong tie to the supernatural—a birth that is in no way linked to anything on earth. Thus, Jesus was describing a transformation that can only be explained as "starting from above."*

*-The text also mentions a guy named Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is the only book of the Bible to mention Nicodemus. He makes two other appearances, in John 7:43-53 and John 19:38-42. His appearance in John 19 is a stark contrast to his visit with Jesus in John 3.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul R. McReynolds, ed., *Word Study Greek-English New Testament* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1998) and Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to John, The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1995).

Ask your students—

Have you ever seen *John 3:16* held up on a sign at a football game and wondered, *What does that mean? And what does it have to do with football?* God loves you so much that he was willing to give his Son for you. Jesus was born in humble circumstances—not to shame us or condemn us or point fingers. He was born to die...for you. He was sent to pay a price that you and I couldn't pay. Because he was sent, you and I can have hope. Hope of a life filled with purpose. Hope of an eternity with a God who loves us more than we could ask or even imagine. The day Jesus was born was the all-time greatest birthday—and because of that day, you and I have a chance to be born all over again. We who were without hope now have hope.

#### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue with—

##### GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Every time one of God's children—the people he created—comes back to him, God sees his angels in heaven react in much the same way people in the stands at an NBA game react to a buzzer-beater—or fans at the Super Bowl react after a touchdown (Luke 15:7, 10). You almost get the feeling that what most excites him in the world is *your birthday*—your *spiritual* birthday, that is. The day you come back to the Father, that's the birthday all of heaven celebrates. It's a birthday that echoes throughout history.

##### OUR PERSPECTIVE

None of us remember the day of our birth. If we did, I imagine it would be pretty traumatic! We don't remember that day and didn't have much choice in the matter, yet it's the day many of us celebrate beyond any other day in life. The irony is that many of us largely ignore the day we were born again. We forget about the day we chose to accept God's love offering to us. This is the day God chose us, and our spiritual trajectory changed forever.

#### 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

Everything changes the day we say yes to Jesus. When we're physically born into this world, we're born into a world of physical laws such as gravity and centrifugal force. When we're spiritually born, we're born into a world of spiritual laws such as love and forgiveness. There is no bigger day for us. This is a day marked for eternity. Have you been born into this world of love and forgiveness?

You may want to celebrate the day you were born into eternity. In fact, you may want to celebrate that day more than your physical birthday. Here's a challenge guaranteed to blow your family's mind: over this next year, ask your family to skip your physical birthday and celebrate your spiritual birthday. Still throw a party, eat cake, make noise. But focus on the fact that you have been spiritually reborn.

If you don't yet have a spiritual birthday, maybe you'd like one. Like Jesus said, "You must be born again." What do you say to Jesus?