

# Boxes, Born Again and Believing in Jesus

## Scriptures

John 3: 1 – 21

Proverbs 3: 5

Mark 1: 15

## Living in a Box?

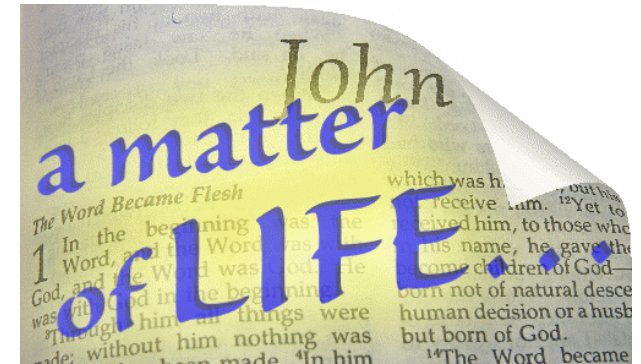
**“we all know” – Information**

**“unless you are born again” – Transformation**

**“believes in him” – Trust**

## Simple Steps of Trust

- Pray – begin a conversation with God
- Be prayed with
- Pray with and for others – ‘Can I pray for you.’
- Be baptised



*Ever since we were young, we have been taught to be autonomous, and to work towards independence. We have been taught to be competent and to plan our way through life, sometimes with clear moral and religious certitudes. Such certitude gives security. We are encouraged to take control of things and have power over our lives, and this is both important and necessary. However, Jesus is affirming a new path that implies risk, insecurity and vulnerability. It implies intuition and trust more than reason.*

*God intervenes in our lives precisely when we open up and let God show the way. It is into the place of our poverty and insecurity that God comes. It is when we do not know what to do and ask God for light that God gives light.*

*Jean Vanier*  
Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John.

### **In a family, small group or community**

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group, unpack Sunday's teaching.

### **John's Gospel ...**

- As a group or community read together the passage from John 3: 1 – 21. Individually consider these three questions:

What stands out as important to you?  
Which words speak personally to you?  
Which parts of the passage puzzle or confuse you?

Share your thoughts as a group.

- Jesus says that to see and enter the Kingdom of God you've got to be born again. Read John 3: 1 – 8. As a group brain storm as many different ways of expressing or explaining being born again. What is your group's best explanation or alternate phrase for being born again.

- In the Good News Bible Proverbs 3: 5 says:

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know.*

Tell a story of an occasion where you stepped out in trusting God.

Are there occasions where you didn't step out in trust, but relied on what you think you know?

What can you do differently in the next month that will help you grow in trusting Jesus? How as a group can you support each other in learning to trust more?

### **Scripture Memorisation and Reflection ...**

As a group or community attempt to learn the following John 3: 16, Mark 1: 15, Proverbs 3: 5 – 6. Read or say them aloud a number of times together in an effort to commit them to memory.

Have someone slowly read the three scriptures and then take five minutes as a group to reflect on the words in silence.

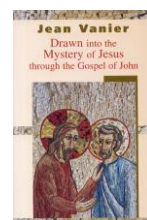
### **Prayer ...**

Split into threes and fours and in those smaller groups ask 'what one thing can we pray for you?'. Take some time to pray with and for one another.

Still in these threes and fours pray for those outside of your group or community that they will experience God's love and grace.

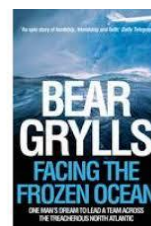
### **Recommended Reads**

Two recommended reads related to this morning's talk.



### **Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John by Jean Vanier**

A reflective and prayerful read. It would be a great book to read through Lent as an accompaniment to our series on John's gospel.



### **Facing the Frozen Ocean by Bear Grylls**

An easy but gripping read. It's described as "An epic story of hardship, friendship and faith."