



## Week Leading up to 1.10.21: Born Anew from Above

**\*{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

**Let's Begin:** Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

### **Opening Prayer:**

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

**Read: Mk 1:7-11**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

*Dear Jesus, You came into our world to unite us with the Father through the Holy Spirit. May we be models in faith as You are to us: obediently following the will of our Father and always pleasing Him. You have graciously allowed us to share in Your Divine Nature through baptism; we ask that You transform us to be more like You. Amen.*

### **Reflection or Discussion Question:**

1. When Jesus was baptized why do you think/feel the heavens were torn open and God the Father spoke these words: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"? *{Hint: Jesus' Baptism highlights that the realm of God has broken into this world through His Son; to follow Him; He will show us the way.}*

**YouTube Video:** Bishop Barron on Being Born Again (12:38)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ1pLyLdnhM&feature=youtu.be>

**Reflection or Discussion Questions:** (For more information on Baptism refer to the Additional Information section below.)

2. Bishop Barron spoke about how Nicodemus is not understanding Jesus and translated spiritual language into language of ordinary experience. Can you think of a time when you may have missed a spiritual message or translated it into language of ordinary experience? *{Hint: Eucharist at Mass might be an example.}*
3. What do you think/feel Bishop Barron means when he says grace builds on nature and transforms it?
4. In Baptism we are drawn into a new world and our nature is transformed through the Holy Spirit elevating the flesh. What does this mean to you?
5. Jesus can reorder our lives when we let Him move in. Can you share ways you have taken things of this world like wealth, pleasure, power, and honor and reordered them for God's purposes?
6. What do you think/feel are the consequences of not being Baptized or born anew in the Holy Spirit?
7. We cannot control the Holy Spirit, but Bishop Barron says we can cooperate with Him. Can you suggest ways you can cooperate with God's grace better to allow the Holy Spirit to transform you?

**Session Challenges:** {Choose one or all}

- Read these sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on Baptism (1214-1243, 1223-1228, 1263-1274).
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to share with you one way that you can better cooperate with him and take steps to schedule it into your calendar.
- Prayerfully consider if the Holy Spirit is nudging you to becoming a Leader or Assistant Leader for a new Emmaus Small Group. Register to attend the next ESG informational meeting this Sunday, January 10 at 12:30 p.m. by RSVPing to [OLSESG1@gmail.com](mailto:OLSESG1@gmail.com).
- If you know someone that hasn't been baptized yet, reach out to them and share what you learned about baptism in this ESG session. Consider sharing a personal story of how the Holy Spirit has affected your life.

**Closing Prayer:** (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear loving Father, You so freely have gifted us by allowing us to share in Your divinity through the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we never take the gift of the Holy Spirit for granted and learn to cooperate more fully with Him. Amen.*

**{Optional additional Readings}** Sunday Reading 1: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Sunday Reading 2: Acts 10:34-38

**Additional information:** CCC 1213-1284