



Baptism and Wilderness



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and
record your partner's
thoughts in the space
provided. Then return
to small group and
share your friend's
highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

**and highlight
the theme verse
in your Bible**

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

John 3:3



TALK

**about how the
Bible reading
might relate to
your highs
and lows**

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. Choose either the cover photo, cartoon or painting by Dr. He Qi (back page).
2. Where are you in this work of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might the art relate to your highs and lows?

ROLE PLAY

Assign roles and take turns acting out the following:

1. A friend is always complaining that she doesn't have enough time to relax and enjoy life. She is in three competitive sports, two music activities that require practice, two school clubs and on the honor roll. What do you say to her?
2. A friend asks what "born again" means. Respond.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What is your all-time favorite "heart in your stomach" amusement park ride? How often have you ridden it? How is riding it like being born again?
2. What is your favorite "slow down and relax" place in the world? How often do you get there? How is rest and relaxation part of rebirth?
3. Why might a famous teacher like Nicodemus sneak out at night to see Jesus? Why would a person be embarrassed or afraid to be labeled a Christian?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

*Stop the world,
I want to get off.*

Alan Bergman

*Most people would like
to be delivered from
temptation but would like
to keep in touch.*

Robert Orben

*The thing is to understand
myself, to see what God
really wishes me to do, to
find the idea for which I
can live and die.*

Søren Kierkegaard

*Everett: What'd the devil
give you for your soul,
Tommy?*

*Tommy: Well, he taught
me to play this here guitar
real good.*

*Delmar: Oh son, for that
you sold your everlastin'
soul?*

*Tommy: Well, I wasn't
usin' it.*

**Dialogue from the movie "O
Brother, Where Art Thou?"**



Write a definition...

BAPTISM

BORN AGAIN

BORN FROM ABOVE

JOHN THE BAPTIST

WILDERNESS



Baptism of Jesus by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY
for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS
one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

**REMEMBER
1 THING**

The same Holy Spirit that came to Jesus in his baptism came to you in your baptism, naming you and claiming you.



FAITH
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