



## BRIDGING THE GAP

### HEBRON YOUTH DEVOTIONS

This week we finally have some hints that spring is on the way. There's no guarantee that we won't have more snow or really cold days, but the sunshine, warmer temperatures (for now), and longer days are wonderful signs that winter doesn't last forever.

With spring comes LOTS of new life. Flowers will bloom, trees will grow new leaves, animals will be busy having lots of babies. Spring reminds us that God created us for renewal, for life, for *new* life. But what exactly does it mean to have "new" life with God?

Jesus described this new life as being born again. Now, none of us can rewind and go back into our mother's tummy to be born a second time. That's just not a thing and it's also pretty creepy to even think about. Jesus wasn't talking about a new physical birth, but a new *spiritual* birth. When we decide to trust Jesus, something changes in our spirits. When we ask God for forgiveness for our sins, our spirits are renewed. This new spiritual life is like a rebirth. We are clean, new, full of hope and promise.

Just like signs of spring are starting to show up outside our windows, signs of the new life we have with Jesus should be evident to people around us. This new life is so amazing, so special, so powerful, that others should notice a difference in us – in the way we behave, the way we speak, the way we treat others. Think about it this way: The new life we have in Jesus is a free gift from God – the evidence of that new life in us is the gift we give back to God.

As you're looking forward to springtime and watching for signs of new life in the world around you, remember that Jesus came to give you new life – new spiritual life that only Jesus can provide. All you have to do is say, "yes" to this amazing free gift.

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:3-7, 16