



Jesus Met Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

MAIN POINT: JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS HE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

Jesus had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. One night, a religious man came to see Jesus. The man's name was Nicodemus.

"Rabbi," he said, "we know that You have come from God. You are a teacher, and no one could do the miracles You do unless God is with him."

Jesus said, "I tell you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Now Nicodemus was confused. "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked.

Jesus said, "A man cannot enter God's kingdom unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Jesus said, "Don't be surprised I told you that you must be born again."

Nicodemus still didn't understand. "How is this possible?" he asked.

Jesus replied, "No one has ever gone up into heaven, except the Son of Man. He came down from heaven. Do you remember how Moses raised up the bronze snake in the wilderness? Everyone who looked at it was healed. Like that, the Son of Man will be raised up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life."

Then Jesus told Nicodemus about God's great plan. Jesus said, "God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life."

Christ Connection: Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

Lesson 51
THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

Nicodemus Moves from Dark to Light

Background Notes for Teachers: See pp.161-162, "Nicodemus: Meeting Jesus in the Dark," in *The Life with God Bible*.

Center Down

Shoes off, quiet book time with soft music

Prayer Time

Prayer requests clockwise, prayer counterclockwise, allowing children to pass

Connect

Invite the children to volunteer to tell the stories of the timeline. Encourage three different children to tell stories that were not told last week. Have the children pass the pointer as they switch story tellers. Write the focus verse on an index card and place it over Nicodemus.

Focus Verse

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him" (John 3:17 NIV).

Listen

Jesus grew up, just like you will. He was a boy and became a man. He knew he was God's Son and that his job was to bring light into the world, to show us how to live a life with God. One person, named Nicodemus, came to Jesus. He was a smart man. He knew the Old Testament; he was

Life with God for Children

looking for God's Son. Was Jesus God's Son? He wanted to believe, but he knew that Jesus was the light of the world. Did he want his life in the light? Light lights up, it lights up everything — the good and the bad. Did Nicodemus really want the light? Do you?

Learn

Have the children get their Bibles and turn to John 3:1-4. Use the previously listed reading strategies. Have the children read John 3:1-4 aloud. Ask: Who was Nicodemus? When did Nicodemus come to Jesus? Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus in the dark? What did he ask Jesus? What did Jesus say? Did Nicodemus understand him? Do you? What do you think he means?

Have the children read John 3:5-9 aloud. You have a body and you also have a spirit. One day your body will die. Everyone dies, but your spirit will live forever. Spirit is the part of us that knows God, the part of us that knows right and wrong. Our body does what our spirit tells it. Thinking about that, what does Jesus say about the spirit? What is a spirit? Do you have one? What is it like? What did Nicodemus say?

**Teacher notes: If a visual for the parts of the person is needed, refer to Lesson 23 and Lesson 47.*

Have the children read John 3:10-13 aloud. How does Jesus know all this about the human spirit?

Have the children read John 3:14-19 aloud. Why did God give his Son to the world?

Do

We Need Light

Materials: five rocks (hide the five rocks in your room before the children arrive), five candies

Tell the children: In our reading about Nicodemus, Jesus tells him, I bring the light of God to the world. Why does the world need light? Who needs light? What does light do? (Now, turn the lights off.) I have hidden five rocks in this room. For each rock you find you will get a prize. There is no running or pushing or shoving, but go ahead and look for the rocks.

Keep the lights off until, you feel the children get the point that they can't find the rocks in the dark. Then turn the lights on. When all the rocks have been found award prizes and gather the children in a circle.

What was it like looking for rocks in the dark? How did the light make a difference? How does the light of God make a difference in our world? Tell about a time you have been light to your family. Tell about a time you have been darkness to your family. How can you be more like Jesus and bring the light?

Extension



Service: Doing things for others

Serving Jesus

Materials: Bible, service project ideas

Read John 19:38-42 aloud. Have the children follow along. Ask: What has happened? Who buried Jesus? What exactly did Nicodemus do? Do you think he could hide 75 pounds of spices? Thinking back about his discussion with Jesus, do you think he chose the darkness or light?

Invite a child to read the poster on Service: "Service is doing things for others." How is Nicodemus serving Jesus? How can you serve Jesus? He's not on earth now, but he says when we serve others we serve him.

Brainstorm service projects. Try to steer clear of projects that the parents will end up doing. This is for the children to learn to serve. Some ideas are: Picking up leaves at an elderly person's house, as a group spending a day at the local soup kitchen, painting walls at church, donating their own toys to a garage sale and then donating the money to a local charity or the church benevolence fund. Tell the children what the benevolence fund is. Visiting a local nursing home and spending extra time just talking to the residents.

Admittedly, service projects take a lot of work to coordinate. But in our self-absorbed society, it is the only discipline that can combat selfish thinking and living. It's well worth the investment.

Sing/Conclusion

Invite the children to choose which of the songs that they have learned goes with the lesson today. Which disciplines did we practice? Sing those songs. Conclude your time together with singing "Do Life with Me."

The Way to Jesus

Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night. Complete the maze to help Nicodemus get to Jesus.



Start

Nicodemus

ONE WAY →

Jesus



Finish

Use the words below to fill in the missing words of John 14:6. Tip: Not all of the words will be used.

way, life, Father, Son, truth, Messiah, Me, heaven

Jesus told him, "I am the _____ ,
the _____ , and the _____
No one comes to the _____
except through _____ ."

Unscramble the circled letters above to complete this sentence:

N _____ life

is a gift that comes only from God.