

PRAY *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, bless us in our time of Family Worship! Help us to understand the Bible more so that we can love You. Amen.”

OPENING ACTIVITY

“I Seek” : select a kid to secretly pick out an object in the room. He/she will start the game by telling the other kids the color the object she is seeking out. Other participants must try to figure out what she is seeking and bring it to them if possible. Once a kid realizes what is being sought out, allow that kid to have a chance to seek out a new object.

Say: Great job with that game! You all did a good job seeking out different objects. Today we will learn about a man who was seeking to learn more about Jesus. He was a religious leader and his name was Nicodemus.

Say: Sin breaks our relationship with God and it makes it impossible to see God, without his help. Nicodemus was no different, even though he was an important person. This reminds us of our Big Picture Question: What makes people so special?

Say: People are special because we are made in God’s image to know Him. God love’s us so much that he saves us from sin so that we can know Him more and more! Let’s learn more

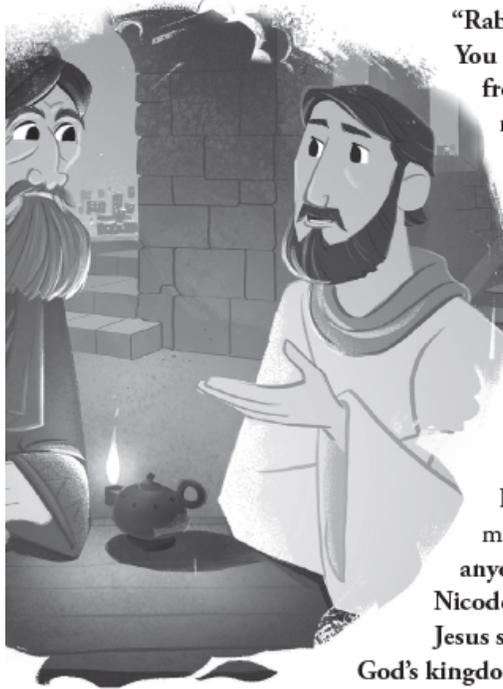
READ Have as many family members that can, read a part of Scripture below. You can either read the adapted version below, or the chapter indicated.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover feast. **One night, a religious man came to see Jesus. The man's name was Nicodemus.** Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He studied and taught God's law, and he tried very hard to obey the law. **Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.**



“Rabbi,” he said, “we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. No one could do the miracles You do unless God were with him.”

Nicodemus had that right. **Jesus said, “I tell you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

Now Nicodemus was confused. He thought that keeping all God's laws was how a person got into heaven. Besides, what Jesus said didn't make any sense! **“How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked.**

Jesus said, “A person 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.” When a baby is born, he gets physical life from his parents. Physical life doesn't last forever. But the Spirit gives people a better kind of life—spiritual life—so

they can live with God forever.

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 said, “When you don’t believe what I say about things I’ve seen on earth, how will you believe what I say about the things I’ve seen in 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 loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son to declare the world guilty, but to save the world. Anyone who believes in Him is found not guilty, but anyone who does not believe in Him is guilty already.”

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Call for active listening:** Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the word *born* in the story.
- **Vary your voice:** Vary your voice for the dialogue of different people. For example, use one voice for Jesus and another voice for Nicodemus.

Take to Heart

As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks! Take it to heart and notice how God’s Word becomes alive in you!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

— John 3:16

LEARN *Take turns having people read the different parts. Have both kids and grown-ups read the questions and the answers. Let's learn about God together!*

Say: Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. This new life is the free gift of God!

Ask: What did Jesus say must happen before Nicodemus could see the kingdom of God?

Say: Jesus said Nicodemus needed to be born again of the Spirit.

Ask: What does it mean to be born again?

Say: Being born again is something that is done to us by the Holy Spirit. It is the way that the Holy Spirit puts an end to their old, sinful life and starts to live a new life in Jesus.



Say: It is by being born again that we come to understand that we are sinners and that we need to be forgiven. Being born again by God's Holy Spirit, draws us to ask for for-

giveness of our sins and draws us to have faith in Jesus to be the one to forgive our sins.

Ask: Our memory verse tells us that whoever believes in Jesus receives eternal life. What does it mean to have eternal life?

Say: Remember at Easter time, we talked about the price of sin is death. With our sins forgiven, it means we will have eternal life. Everybody will still die. But now, when we die, our souls will go to heaven and will get to be with God forever! The Bible says that Jesus is going to return. When that happens, everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever with God with a new body and a new life that is completely free of sin! What an amazing gift from God this is!

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for our faith.

Pray: *Dear God, we thank you so much for your love. We thank you that you sent us your Holy Spirit to make us born again.*

Help us to receive your Spirit and to trust in Jesus to forgive us our sins. We pray that today, we might enjoy eternal life with you, now and forever! Thank you so much, Amen.

Spread the News:

Jesus commands us to spread the news of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. It can be hard to share this news with our friends. Use the outline below to practice telling your family members about Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.

WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.

GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.

JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.