

4 year olds, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade Bible Lesson 5-17-20

Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

<u>Story Point:</u>	Jesus told Nicodemus about God's great plan.
<u>Memory Verse:</u>	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, NIV
<u>Gospel Gems:</u>	Jesus told Nicodemus about God's plan. Jesus changes us and gives us new life.

PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study Guide

Jesus' ministry had begun. His early miracles included turning water into wine, casting out demons, and healing people. John 2:23 says that "many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing." Jesus likely spent a large part of His day teaching. When the day was done, He spent time alone or with His disciples. One night, a man named Nicodemus approached Jesus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews; that is, he was a religious leader who taught God's law, and he was a member of the Sanhedrin—a Jewish governing body. Nicodemus held to the belief that if a person was a law-abiding Jew, he would be accepted by God. Jesus gave Nicodemus a lesson that would turn his belief system on its head.

Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3), so the religious teachers likely assumed He didn't know theology. But they had seen Jesus' miraculous signs in Jerusalem. Nicodemus had to conclude, "You are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2).

Nicodemus initiated the conversation, but Jesus chose the subject. His words perplexed Nicodemus: "Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Jesus explained that spiritual birth is not unlike physical birth in that a person cannot do it himself; it is something that happens to him.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of an Old Testament account, the disobedient Israelites and the bronze snake. The Israelites could not help themselves, but when they trusted in God and looked to the bronze snake lifted up on the pole, they were healed. (Num. 21:4-9)

Emphasize to preschoolers that every person is born a sinner—spiritually dead and alienated from God. It is by God's Spirit—not our own effort—that we are born again. We look to Jesus and His finished work on the cross for our salvation.

Kid's Worship:

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Video: Connection Team Worship**

Christ Connection: – (all stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus)

"Nicodemus wanted life with God, but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift. God showed His love by sending His one and only Son to rescue people from sin. Everyone who believes in Him receives God's gift of eternal life through Jesus."

Bible Story: Jesus and Nicodemus – John 3:1-21

PARENTS:

This lesson is paraphrased and in story form. The scripture references are listed above if you choose to read directly from the Bible. We encourage you to open the Bible either way you choose to share this lesson.

One night, when Jesus was in the city of Jerusalem, **a man named Nicodemus came to visit Jesus**. Nicodemus was a religious man. **He studied God’s law, tried very hard to obey it, and taught it to others. Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.**

“Teacher,” Nicodemus 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 was right. Jesus was a good teacher. Jesus came to earth from heaven, and God was with Him. Jesus decided to teach Nicodemus an important lesson.

Jesus said, “A person cannot see God’s kingdom unless he is born again.”

Nicodemus was confused. He thought that a person got to go to heaven if he was good and obeyed all of God’s laws. Jesus’ words did not make sense.

“How can anyone be born again when he is old?” Nicodemus asked.

Nicodemus knew that babies are small when they are born. How can a grown man be born again? **Jesus told Nicodemus that when a baby is born, the baby gets life from his parents. But that kind of life does not last forever. Jesus said that people can get a better kind of life from God. This kind of life means people can live with God forever.** Nicodemus still did not understand.

“How is it possible to get life from God?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus said, **“When I tell you about things we have seen on earth, you do not believe Me. Will you believe Me when I tell you about things I have seen in heaven?”**

Then Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the time when God’s people disobeyed God and got sick. The people were healed when they looked at the bronze snake on the pole. **Jesus said that He would be raised up like the snake so that everyone who believes in Jesus will be healed from their sin and have eternal life.**

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.” Jesus was talking about Himself; He is God’s one and only Son!**

Review Questions:

- Who came to visit Jesus? (*Nicodemus*)
- What did Jesus say a person must be so he or she can see God’s kingdom? (*born again*)
- Did Jesus mean that Nicodemus needed to be a baby again to see God’s kingdom? (*No*)
- How do people get life with God? (*believe in Jesus*)

Bible Activities pages:

- Access: **4 years – 1st Grade Activity pages 5-17-20** online.
- The first page is a coloring sheet.
- Following the color sheet are the activity pages and answer keys
- Follow the directions on the Activity pages.

Craft:

- Access the craft page: **4 years – 1st Grade Craft 5-17-20** online.
- Follow the directions on the craft page.

Missions Moment:

Say:

“Jesus told Nicodemus about God’s great plan. Missionaries go all over the world to tell people about God’s great plan. Missionaries in Nevada helped a young woman named Anna know how to follow Jesus. Let’s watch a video about Anna.

- Access the Missions page: **4 years – 1st Grade Missions 5-17-20** online.

Prayer:

“God, thank You for showing Your amazing love for us through Your Son, Jesus. Show us how we can learn Your Word and share it with others who don’t know about You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”