

Life of Christ

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus at Night

John 3:1-21

Memory Verse

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)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Who remembers from the story last week where Jesus went to celebrate the Passover? Jerusalem! While He was there, someone came to visit Him. This visitor did not come during the day, when most visitors make their visits. This visitor came to talk to Jesus at night. His name was Nicodemus.

The Bible tells us that Nicodemus was an important man. He was a leader. He was part of a group of men who studied the law (Pharisees). He was also part of a group that was almost like our Supreme Court is today (the Sanhedrin). They made decisions that people had to obey.

Nicodemus had either seen the signs and miracles Jesus had performed or he had heard about them. Because of these signs, Nicodemus knew that Jesus was from God. He knew that no one could do those amazing things if God were not with him.

Instead of talking about how wonderful His miracles were, Jesus took the opportunity to explain to Nicodemus that we have to be born again to be able to go to heaven. Maybe you are thinking, "born again?" "How can someone be born after they are grown?" Well, believe it or not, that is exactly what Nicodemus wondered, too. He even asked how someone can get back inside of their mother to be born a second time!

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that he was not talking about an actual, physical birth. What had to happen to Nicodemus and what has to happen to us, in order to go to heaven, is a spiritual birth. Jesus explained it by comparing it to the wind. We cannot see the wind. We do not know where it comes from or where it is going. Have you ever

Lesson Goals

To stress the need for belief in Jesus because of the danger we are in due to sin. To introduce the working of the Holy Spirit.

watched birds gliding in the air? Sometimes they move straight forward, other times they drop down quickly, and at other times they swerve to the side. They are gliding with the wind. We may not be able to see the wind, but we can see what the wind does by looking at birds gliding or watching the leaves on a tree move. That is how the Spirit of God works.

That spiritual birth that Jesus talked about means that we have to be born from God. But how does that happen? Even though Nicodemus was an important leader, he did not understand. Jesus did not leave him to figure it out on his own. And He does not leave us to figure it out on our own. Jesus told Nicodemus that He, Jesus, would die on a cross* so that whoever believes can have life forever with Him in heaven one day. Then Jesus explained that God loved everyone of us, you and me and everyone else, so much that He sent His one and only Son to earth so that whoever believes in Him can live forever and ever with Him in heaven one day. Jesus added that He did not come to earth to tell everyone how bad they are, He came so that everyone can be saved because of His death on the cross.

What did Nicodemus need to be saved from? What do you and I need to be saved from? Are we in danger? Well, just like someone who is lost needs to be found, and someone who is drowning needs to be saved, we are in danger. We are in danger because of sin. Sin, disobeying God, separates us from Him. God is perfect and when we disobey, it makes us less and less like Him. We need Jesus. We need to believe that He died for us and made a way for us to spend forever with Him. Do you realize that you are in danger? Do you know you sin? Will you accept and believe that Jesus died in your place and wants you to believe in Him?

Make wind socks. Provide students with construction paper, instructing them to print the Bible verse on it. Roll the construction paper into a cylinder, securing it with staples, tape or glue. Decorate the bottom of the wind sock with strips of tissue paper. Attach string to the top for hanging. Talk about how the Spirit is like the wind.

Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus. (Be sensitive to those who are aware of their sin and are ready to accept Christ.)

As students snack and clean up, be sensitive to any questions they may have and take the opportunity to point them to Christ with every question.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 9
John Points People to Jesus
John 3:22-36

*See v 14 as well as John 12:32-33

Memory Verse Activities

Prayer Time

Clean Up and Snack Time

Preschool Lesson

Jesus Loves Me!

Begin by singing:

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

Jesus does love you! The Bible says so.

We read in the Bible that a man named Nicodemus visited with Jesus. Nicodemus knew that Jesus came from God. He knew this because Jesus was doing some amazing things! He changed water into wine and He cleared the temple when men were selling animals and doing things that were wrong.

Jesus and Nicodemus talked. Jesus told Nicodemus that God loved him. And God loves you! Jesus said, "God loves you so much that He sent Me, His one and only Son, so that you can believe and always be with us!"

Have you ever had to leave your favorite doll or toy behind at home? Maybe when you went to church or when you went on a trip? It was hard not to have it with you, wasn't it? Well can you imagine, if it was difficult for you to leave a toy, it must have been very hard for God to send Jesus. Jesus had been with God in heaven for a long time. And then one day, it was time; time to send Jesus from heaven to earth. For thirty-three years Jesus lived on earth, away from His Father! Even though it must have been hard, God sent Jesus because He loves you so much!

Pray: Thank you God for loving me! Thank you for sending Jesus. I love you!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Sing the chorus of “Jesus Loves Me” with sign language.
 - Yes - Make a fist, fingers out, and move hand at the wrist (like nodding your head)
 - Jesus - With palms opened and up, touch left palm with the middle finger of your right hand, then touch right palm with the middle finger of your left hand
 - Loves - Make fists with both hands and cross arms over your chest.
 - Me - With right hand, point to yourself
 - The Bible - Repeat the sign for Jesus as well as placing palms together in front of you and opening them out like a book
 - Tells - With index finger of right hand, point to throat and then away from you
 - Me - With right hand, point to yourself
 - So - With index finger of right hand, point to mouth and then away from you
- On black construction paper, recreate the night sky. For stars use white chalk or colored pencil, star shaped pasta, or sequins.
- Make and print a “certificate” for each child. Include John 3:16, putting a blank in place of “the world.” Prompt students to fill in their names.
- Race with balloons. Set a starting and ending point. The object is to be the first to go from START to FINISH by inflating a balloon and then releasing it to propel itself. The balloon will not move in straight lines. Take this opportunity to review the lesson and Jesus’ teaching about the Spirit moving as it will.