

Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3

Did Jesus ever sin?
No, Jesus never sinned.

“But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.”
1 John 3:5

Story Point:

Jesus taught that people must be born again to enter the kingdom of God.



PREPARE HEARTS

- Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- Lesson Review - Jesus and Nicodemus
- Discussion Questions
- Group Demonstration: Like the Wind



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Group Activity: Heart Swap
- Share and Care Prayer Time
- Group Activity: For God so Loved the World
- Group Activity: Real Questions, Real Truth

SHEPHERD GUIDE

In a world full of Google searches, YouTube tutorials, and AI-powered answers, we’ve never had more access to information—yet some of life’s biggest questions still can’t be answered with a quick click. Questions like: What does it mean to truly live? Why do I still feel empty even when life looks full? In John 3, Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night—not with certainty, but with curiosity. His story reminds us that faith doesn’t require having it all figured out. What if the questions you’ve been wrestling with are actually where real faith begins? As you prepare to teach kids, read the full account in John 3 and consider the following teaching points.

Faith begins with curiosity. Before belief comes wonder. Nicodemus didn’t understand everything about Jesus, but his curiosity brought him face-to-face with the truth. Asking questions doesn’t show a lack of faith—it can be the very beginning of it. God often uses our curiosity to draw us closer to Himself.

Asking questions brings opportunity for growth. Spiritual growth isn’t about having all the answers—it’s about being willing to ask. Jesus welcomed Nicodemus’ questions and used them to reveal deeper truths. When we invite honest questions into our faith journey, we make space for God to teach, stretch, and transform us.

Jesus calls us to personal faith. Jesus didn’t give Nicodemus a checklist to follow—He pointed him to a new kind of life through the Spirit. Faith isn’t about religious status or knowledge; it’s about trusting Jesus personally. Each person must respond to His invitation to be born again and enter the kingdom of God.

This week, help kids see the value in coming to Jesus with honest curiosity and open hearts that are ready to learn from Him. Guide them to understand that Jesus invites them to be healed from their sin and restored to God. The life Jesus offers us is one of incredible joy, hope, and love.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

June 14, 2026
2nd Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus offers new life - through His Spirit!
- *BELIEVE and TRUST in Jesus with their whole lives.
- *ASK questions and bring them to Jesus.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day

Many people came to Jesus with questions about what He taught. Sometimes Jesus' teachings are hard to understand, not just for us, but even for the people who were with Him in person! Today we're going to hear a story of a man named Nicodemus who was confused about some things Jesus told him, and he was curious to learn more. Jesus wanted him—and us—to know that God loves all people and has made a way for us to be close to Him. Jesus taught that people must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. I can't wait to explore this idea with you more!



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Jesus and Nicodemus

Bibles,
Review Video -
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to John 3. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

Faith begins with curiosity (John 3:1-2): Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.

Asking questions brings opportunity for growth (John 3:9-13): Nicodemus asked Jesus questions about what He taught.

Jesus calls us to personal faith (John 3:14-21): Nicodemus was a religious leader who knew the law, but he still needed to be born again to enter the kingdom of God.

One night, a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus came to Jesus. Nicodemus said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, because no one could perform the miracles you do unless God were with him.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth: unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus was confused. He asked, “How can anyone be born when he is old? He cannot go back in time and be a baby again.”

Jesus answered: “I tell you the truth: unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.” Like the wind blows where it chooses to blow but you don’t know where it came from or where it’s going, so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus still didn’t understand. “How can this be possible?” he asked.

Jesus replied, “I can’t believe that you are a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things! I’m telling you the truth. You can trust me because I am the Son of Man who has descended from heaven.

Then Jesus reminded Nicodemus of a story from the Old Testament. Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” Jesus was talking about the future when He would be lifted up on a cross, and everyone who trusts in Him would be saved from their sins.

Jesus continued, “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not die but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to punish the world, but to save the world. Anyone who believes in him will not be condemned. But everyone who does not believe in the Son of God will be punished for their sin.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus showed His desire to honor God by cleansing the temple of sinful practices. All sin offends God’s glory and will be punished. Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves so that anyone who trusts in Him will be cleansed of sin.

What did you hear in the story? Who came to Jesus at night? What was his job? [Allow responses.]

Nicodemus was a religious leader. He knew a lot about the Scriptures, but he didn't fully understand what Jesus had come to do. Jesus came into the world to usher in God's kingdom. **What did Jesus say is the only way into the kingdom of God?** (Read John 3:3.) Nicodemus learned that he needed to be born again to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus explained that being part of God's kingdom wasn't about following all the rules; it was about recognizing our need for Him.

Jesus shared how the Spirit causes people to be born again to new life. When we give our lives to Jesus, He begins to change us from the inside out. Anyone who believes in Jesus will be born again and receive eternal life. (Read Ephesians 2:4-5.) **How might Jesus change the way we live when we enter God's kingdom?** [Allow responses.]



Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Can only good people enter the kingdom of God? We all sin and fall short of the perfect goodness required to enter the kingdom of God. But Jesus perfectly obeyed God in our place and offers His perfect goodness to us. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins and allow us to enter the kingdom of God. We can only enter the kingdom of God through Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8-9.)

How does Jesus' death display God's love for us? God loved us so much that He created a plan to rescue us from our sins by sending Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and became the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He took the punishment our sin deserves so that we can be forgiven and have eternal life with God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:16.)

What does it mean to be born again? When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are born again. God no longer sees our sinful state, but instead He sees the perfect life Jesus lived in our place. The Holy Spirit works in our lives, changing us to be more like Jesus and giving us a new life in Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.)



Like the Wind

- Fan
- Streamers

Display an electric fan and hold or tape strips of streamers nearby. Explain that nothing happens because the air isn't blowing. Turn the fan on and watch the streamers move around.

SAY: Have you ever been curious about something you couldn't see—like the wind? Right now, this fan is off. It's just sitting here. Nothing's happening. But what do you think will happen when I turn it on? [Allow responses.] (Turn the fan on and let the streamers blow.) Look at that! The streamers are moving everywhere! Can you actually see the air blowing? No, you can't see the wind—but you can see what it does.

This reminds me of something Jesus said to Nicodemus, a man who was curious about Jesus' teaching. In John 3:8 we learn that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night with lots of questions, and Jesus told him something amazing. He said the Holy Spirit is like the



Continued....

wind. You can't see where it comes from or where it's going—but you can tell it's real because of what it does. Being 'born again' means that God's Spirit comes into our lives and gives us a new heart. Just like the wind moves the streamers, the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out. Jesus wants us to be curious about Him. When we ask questions and learn more about Him, the Holy Spirit helps us grow. What are some ways the Holy Spirit changes us? [Allow responses.] God's Spirit moves in our lives to help us love Him and love the people around us. And even though we can't see the Spirit, we can see the changes He makes.



Heart Swap

- Black hearts
- Red hearts in a bin
- Empty bin

Form several teams and have each team line up at the starting line. Give each child a black paper heart to hold.

Place a bin of red paper hearts at the far end of the relay area. One at a time, the first child on each team runs to the far side while holding their black heart. When they reach the other side, they will drop the black heart in a bin and pick up a red heart to carry back.

They will run back and tag the next person in line, who repeats the process. Continue until all team members have finished.

SAY: That was fun! You started out with the black heart—like our hearts before Jesus. But when you got to the other side, you traded it for the red heart. It's like what Jesus said: we must be born again. He doesn't just fix us—He gives us a brand-new life through His Spirit. Of course, God doesn't give us a new heart physically, but the Holy Spirit changes our hearts to make us new. It's not about trying harder. It's about letting Jesus change us from the inside out!

Jesus described two ways of being born. What were they? (Read John 3:5-6.) Jesus explained that all people have a physical birth. But the Spirit of God gives people a different kind of life: a spiritual life that lasts forever. We are all born physically but we must receive the Spirit of God to live with Him forever.

Jesus tried to help Nicodemus understand that God loves us. And God didn't just say He loves us, He proved it by what He did for us. **How did God prove His love for the world?** [Allow responses.] (Read John 3:16.) We know that God loves us because He gave us Jesus to forgive the sins of the world. Jesus didn't come into the world just to point out all the things we are doing wrong. He came to show us how much God loves us. He came to set us free from the darkness of sin and bring us into the light of God's wonderful kingdom.



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Karthak Family**)
- Specific prayer requests from any of the kids about something going on in their own lives.

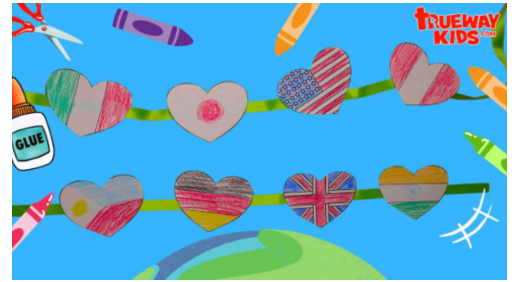
Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Karthak Family.



For God so Loved the World

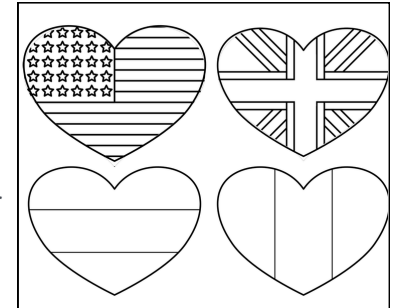
- Bible
- Heart cut-outs
- Ribbon
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Pencils

Read John 3:16 aloud and then pass out the heart shaped templates. Invite children to write John 3:16 on one side and then color the heart shape to represent a flag of a different nation around the world.



Provide reference images for accuracy or allow children to use their creativity to design the flags.

(Use this site - flaglog.com (also on the TV's USB) to find and view all the countries flags.)



Once completed, bring all the heart flags together and tape them on the long strand of ribbon. Hang the ribbon and flags around the room.

This serves as a visual reminder of God's love for all nations and peoples of the world.

SAY: God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Through Him, we can be born again and have new and eternal life.



Real Questions, Real Truth

- Scripture passage sheets
- Pencils
- Bibles
- Thought bubbles
- Markers

Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4. Pass out a scripture passage sheet to each group.

- John 14:6
- John 8:31-32
- Ephesians 6:14-16
- Psalm 25:5

Have them use their Bibles to find the passage and fill in the blanks. Next, have volunteers read them aloud to the group and discuss the meaning of each verse together.

SAY: Today we learned about a man named Nicodemus who was searching for truth and found the truth in Jesus. Nicodemus was used to being the one people went to for answers. As a Pharisee and a respected teacher, others saw him as the expert on God. But when he had his own questions, he didn't hide behind pride, reputation, or fear of looking unsure, he went to Jesus.

Jesus didn't criticize him for not knowing; He welcomed the conversation. This moment shows that faith isn't about pretending we already understand everything. Pride and fear can make us stay silent, but God invites us to bring our real questions to Him. We don't have to hide our questions, we can bring them to Jesus!

Ask the class if they have any questions that they want to ask Jesus. As they ask, write their questions down on the thought bubbles and stick them on the white board. Talk through and answer questions as you go. If you don't know the answer, that's ok! Encourage them with their questions and say you will look into it and get back to them next time.



I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____
No one comes to the Father _____ through _____
-John 14:

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you _____
to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will
know the _____ and the _____ will set you _____
-John 8:31-32

Stand firm then, with the belt of _____ buckled around
your waist, with the breastplate of _____ in place, and
with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the
gospel of _____
-Ephesians 6:14-16

Guide me in your _____ and _____ me,
for you are God my _____
and my _____ is in you all day long.
-Psalm 25:5