

Reality – Bible Lesson for October 18, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

Discipleship Born Again – Jesus and Nicodemus

Lesson 3

- 1. Lesson: Born Again – Jesus and Nicodemus**
- 2. Scripture:** John 3:1-21
- 3. Memory Verse:** “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” – John 3:16
- 4. Mission Story:** Amy Carmichael – Part 1
- 5. Bible Skills:** The Books of Poetry – Lesson 2
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson -** a Bible; pens and pencils
Beginning Activity - Object Lesson: a pinwheel **Bible Skills:** some sort of spinner

Missionary Image:

<https://bethanygu.edu/blog/stories/amy-carmichael/>

Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2iHNzNjKJw>

Instructional Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43QWv_T_HGs

<https://www.pursuegodkids.org/jesus-and-nicodemus/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQDGTfwDSY>

1. Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson:

Say: I would like for you to put your hand in front of your mouth and blow on it. Do you feel anything? (Let them respond) You don't see a breeze. Wind is invisible. You know you feel it but how can you prove it's really there to someone who doesn't believe you? Could this pinwheel help? (Hold up the pinwheel and blow on it.) Yes – now I can see that there is a wind because I see it turning the pinwheel.

In our story today, Jesus says, “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” When you believe in Jesus and accept Him as your Savior, His Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Just like we saw the pinwheel moving - Others know God's Holy Spirit is in you because they see God in you through your actions.

Today we are going to learn about a man named Nicodemus who came to Jesus to find out about being born again of the Holy Spirit and what he learned about having eternal life.

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

A shadowy figure moved through the alleyways in Jerusalem one quiet night, hoping that no one would see him. What he was doing was potentially dangerous, but he had to find the answers to his burning questions. His name was Nicodemus and he was a man that was well-recognized in Jerusalem. He was a member of the Sanhedrin – the Jewish ruling council. This group consisted of seventy men who served on the council for their entire lives. Nicodemus was also a Pharisee and well-educated. Many of the Pharisees had made themselves bitter enemies of Jesus, but Nicodemus was different. He really wanted to understand the truth that Jesus was teaching. He recognized that there was something incredibly special about Jesus. He was willing to risk his reputation and his power to know the truth.

Jesus was constantly surrounded by crowds of people during the day, so Nicodemus arranged to meet Him at night. Since the other religious leaders did not approve of Jesus, Nicodemus felt he needed to secretly meet Jesus when there were fewer chances of him being seen. He called Jesus "Rabbi" and let Him know that they thought He was a teacher who had come from God. Of course, He is much more than that.

Jesus knew what Nicodemus wanted and addressed his need immediately in **John 3:3** - "Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom unless they are born again." Jesus must have noticed the surprised look on the face of Nicodemus, who asked how this could happen. Jesus told him a deep truth that would change his life. Jesus' answer is in **John 3:5-8**. He told Nicodemus that He wasn't talking about physical birth, but spiritual birth. He was talking about something that couldn't be seen, like the wind. Jesus said that God's Spirit can change you and you'll know He's there, just like you can hear the wind, but you can't see it.

Jesus was reminding Nicodemus of what was written in **Ezekiel 36:25-27** and telling him that he was born in a physical way, but his spirit had not been born yet. His spirit needed to be brought to life by being born in the Spirit of God. Our spirit is brought to life when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts and forgive our sins. Salvation is not about doing and seeing – it's about believing.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the story in **Numbers 21:4-9**, where Moses held up the bronze serpent. People did not have to do anything to be saved – if they had been bitten by the snakes, they just had to look at the bronze serpent and be saved. Jesus, who knew no sin, would be held up on the Cross and become sin for us – and our sin

would be judged in Him. Now we know that if we will only look to the one who took our judgment upon Himself and believe in Him, we will find salvation through Him.

Finally, Jesus let Nicodemus know that He, Jesus, is God's Son. He stated one of the most powerful verses in the Bible – **John 3:16** – “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” And **John 3:17**, “God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him.” When we give our lives to Jesus, we are saved because He died on the Cross for us. **John 3:21** tells us that People who reject Jesus and the salvation we have through Him are living in darkness and refusing to see that Jesus is the light that has come into the world. Jesus is our Savior and He has asked us to follow Him.

You can ask Jesus to forgive your sins. You can be born again and invite the Holy Spirit to come and live inside you. This is the most important thing you could ever do in your life.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

- Who was Nicodemus? (a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin)
- What does it mean to be born again? (To enter into Heaven requires a rebirth, something impossible for man, but possible for God. To be born again means we become a new person spiritually, a person forgiven of sin and in a relationship with God)
- What is being born of the water and of the Spirit? How are they different? (Being born of the water probably refers to the physical birth, while being born of the Spirit refers to when we awaken to God's Spirit working in us.)
- What does Jesus mean when He says, “The Son of Man must be lifted up?” (He must be lifted up on the Cross to die for us, and when we accept Him as our Savior, we will be saved from our sins.)
- What is the most important truth you hear in John 3:16? (answers will vary)

4. Mission Story: Amy Carmichael – Lesson 1

Amy Carmichael was born on December 16, 1867, in Northern Ireland. She was the daughter of a mill owner. When Amy was only seventeen years old, she began having Sunday classes for the “shawlies” – the girls who worked in the mills and wore shawls. These meetings grew so quickly that Amy decided they needed a building in which to hold them. Her faith and vision were catching, and soon the mill girls were meeting in a new hall named “The Welcome” for Bible studies, music practice, night school, sewing clubs, mothers' meetings, and a monthly gospel meeting open to everyone. In 1892, when she was twenty-four years old, Amy heard God's call for her to take the Good News to people in foreign countries. She was accepted by the Church of England

Zenana Missionary Society and sent to India in October 1895. Little did anyone know she would never return home again.

Amy threw herself into studying Tamil, the language of southern India, and in time gathered together a group of Christian Indian women who called themselves the Starry Cluster. These women went from village to village preaching the Gospel. As they traveled, Amy Carmichael became aware of the young girls who were in danger and being held in the Hindu Temples. Amy saved many of them and established Dohnavur Fellowship. Soon Amy became Amma to dozens of little girls. Later the ministry expanded to include boys as well.

In October of 1931, at the age of sixty-four, Amy fell into a pit, breaking her leg. She never fully recovered and spent the next twenty years confined to her room. She wrote thirteen books after her accident. These books capture many stories of the lives of boys and girls, men, and women, who came to know God through the work of Dohnavur Fellowship. Amy died on January 18, 1951, but her spirit lives on in the work of Dohnavur Fellowship, still going strong in south India today.

One story that is told about Amy Carmichael is when Amy and the members of the Starry Cluster were sitting on Amy's porch sipping tea. A neighbor woman appeared with a young abandoned girl she had found the night before. The child crawled right up into Amy's lap. The seven-year-old child looked up at Amy and said, "My name is Preena, and I want to stay with you – always." Amy was sure, right away, that God had sent Preena to her to take care of. But Amy thought, "How can I take care of a small girl while traveling from village to village preaching about Jesus Christ?"

God soon gave her an answer. When more children came to her for protection, Amy realized that she and the Starry Cluster needed to quit traveling and make a home for the children that had been given away and needed homes. Amy called the new home "Dohnavur Fellowship." She and the Starry Cluster had compassion for the children, not because they felt sorry for them, but because they wanted to change their lives.

"Here is what the LORD who rules over all said to his people. "Treat everyone with justice. Show mercy and tender concern to one another." – Zechariah 7:9

5. Bible Skills: The Books of Poetry – Lesson 2

We're going to review the names of the Books of Poetry in the Bible. They are **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon**. Now are any of you still able to name all five of the Books of Law: (**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**) Excellent! How about the Books of Old Testament History: (**Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther**) Incredible!

As part of our Books of Poetry study, we're going to concentrate on one special Psalm in the Book of Psalms that was written by King David. Remember that a psalm is a praise song and a poetic work of art. The psalm we're going to be looking at is Psalm 23. Many of you may have heard it or even memorized it. So, let's look at it a little closer:

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul." God is our Good Shepherd and He will provide for our every need. He wants us to take time out to be with Him. David used this psalm to show how God is like a shepherd to us and we are His sheep. However, sheep have some strange qualities – they have to be forced to rest, they feed until the ground is bare, and they don't like moving water, but they love still waters. Some of this sounds familiar – we need to remember that, in the Ten Commandments, God said we are to take a sabbath – to take time out to rest and to worship Him. If we take time to be with God, we might not find ourselves so often in troubled waters.

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Sheep are not always aware of where they are going. In fact, sheep have been known to walk right off a cliff and others follow it. If we, as God's sheep, will trust Him He will lead us in the paths of righteousness.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For You are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Sheep have many predators. So, the shepherd uses his rod to defend and guide the sheep and he uses his staff to bring in a stray sheep by gently coaxing it by the neck. A sheep can fall and end up on its back, but it cannot right itself again and could die of starvation in that position or leave itself open to attack by a predator. The staff is so perfectly shaped that it never chokes the sheep, yet it is narrow enough to be able to bring the sheep back into the fold or keep it near the shepherd. In the same way, God gently leads us back to Himself.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." A shepherd would survey a "tableland" for his sheep before he took them there to graze. This was a high range that he would take them to in the summer. The shepherd would make sure it didn't have poisonous weeds and he would sprinkle the plateau with a supply of salt and minerals – in preparation for the sheep to use the field. David was saying that God prepares an incredibly special place for us as well.

"You anoint my head with oil." Additionally, a sheep is prone to having very irritating insects hover around its head, particularly the nose – irritating the sheep so much that it thrashes about and bangs its head on objects trying to remove the pests. In doing this, the sheep could easily injure itself. The shepherd anoints the sheep's head with oils and herbs to keep the pests away. The oil is also a symbol of the anointing of kings in Biblical times and anointing the head of a guest. God watches over us, loves us, and wants us to learn to live as examples of Christ.

"My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Finally, the cup that runs over was symbolic of hospitality. When a guest was welcome to stay at a home, their host intentionally overflowed their cup so that the guest understood that he was welcome to stay as long as he wanted. This reminds us of our eternal life in Christ, we will be with Him throughout eternity. David knew that he would dwell in the house of the Lord forever. And we know we will dwell in the Kingdom of God forever. This short, little psalm is packed with powerful promises. David knew that if the Lord is my Shepherd, what more should I want.

Game – Thrill Ride:

You will need a spinner with 3 or 4 sections for this game. Write 1, 2, 3, or 4 on the sections. Your questions will come from all the books of Law, Old Testament History, or Poetry.

Have questions ready to ask the children based on a numerical choice of 1, 2, 3 or 4. The teacher will ask you a question based upon the number the child playing spins. His/Her whole team must work together to do what the card says. If the team does not answer correctly, the team does not get a point. If they do answer correctly the team gets 1, 2, 3, or 4 points for the answer. Teams take turn spinning until all the questions have been answered. The team with the most points wins.

Use any of the books from Law, History, or Poetry for the following questions – the questions are worth the points at the beginning of the statements:

- 1 – Name the testament; name the division
- 2 – Name the book before; name the book after
- 3 – Find the book in the Bible; find the first verse of the book; find the last verse of the book (do any of these activities in 15 seconds)
- 4 – Say all the books in the division the book comes from

6.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse - "God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." – John 3:16

Elementary: Snap it!

Try snapping your fingers in between phrases. Breaking a verse into phrases makes it easier to memorize. For example, "For God"...snap, snap..."so loved"...clap, clap..."the world"...snap snap. You get the picture. Alternate snaps with claps and keep it moving. (You can also add other rhythmic movements)

7. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.