

## Reality – Bible Lesson for October 18, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### 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. The God’s Story for Me Bible:** Pages 310 - 313

**5. Materials useful in teaching the lesson – Beginning Activity - Object Lesson:** a pinwheel **Craft: Elementary** - template downloaded on cardstock; blue and green tissue paper; scissors; one red construction paper heart for each child; liquid glue or glue sticks

**Craft: John 3:16**

<http://biblecraftsandactivities.com/awana-crafts-for-john-316/>

**Song:**

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

**Instructional Videos:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43QWv\\_T\\_HGs](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: (You can use the lesson below and/or read it from "The God's Story for Me Bible" – Pages 310 - 313 )**

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 - "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. 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 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. 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. Bible Application:**

**Craft: John 3:16 Cards**



1. For best results – the template should be printed on white cardstock.
2. Ask the children to tear blue and green tissue paper into small enough pieces to work with on their global maps
3. Spread a thin layer of glue on the outlines of the land and ocean areas with a glue stick or liquid glue. (You can do this with inexpensive paint brushes or craft sticks but - Keep wet-wipes or a bucket of water handy for sticky fingers)
4. Glue pieces of green tissue paper to the land areas.
5. Glue pieces of blue tissue paper to the water areas.
6. Glue a small red construction paper heart in the middle of your map.

**5.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)

### **Preschool:**

God (point up high to God)

so loved (crisscross their chests as a sign of love)

the world (raise your hands above your head into a big “world”)

that He gave (start with palms down about chest high, then flip them up and over like you are giving a gift)

His one (hold up an index finger showing the number one)

And only Son (put your arms out to the sides like making a big cross with your body)

Anyone who (fan your arms out to everyone)

believes in Him (tap an index finger to the side of your brain)

will not die (shake an index finger back and forth)

but will have eternal life (crisscross your hands and arms facing down to the ground then bring them up and around in a big gesture way up high)

**6.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.