

# Nicodemus Seeks Jesus At Night (Sunday School Lesson)

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Beckie Stewart

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This Bible lesson for children is based on John 3:1-21, the story of Nicodemus coming to talk to Jesus during the night. It could be used in children's church or expanded for a kids Sunday School lesson. Please leave any suggestions at the bottom of this page.

**Curriculum text:** John 3:1-21

**Time:** 35 minutes

**Learning Objectives: After this lesson...**

- Children express their knowledge of the key people and events in this passage by retelling the story to each other.
- Children express their understanding by identifying the point of the lesson.
- Children express their understanding about Jesus' description on salvation.

**Target Age:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, older elementary

**Material Needed:**

- [\[print\\_link\]](#) this lesson plan
- Bible: John 3:1-21
- Prepare beforehand a copy with the important points highlighted to endure specific explanation on them.
- Visual Aids: Pictures of Jesus, Nicodemus, Moses (holding serpent), electric fan, and book
- You can print our free [Nicodemus coloring page maze](#) as an extra learning activity.

**Teaching Plan:**

Begin the lesson with a brief description of the key people in the story and showing pictures of Jesus, Nicodemus, and Moses and explain their roles in this story. Explain to the students that Jesus uses Moses as an illustration to make a point with Nicodemus. Make sure the students repeat the names.

Prior to reading the passage, divide the students into two groups and ask one half to identify the similarities and differences of physical birth and spiritual birth. Ask the other half of the students to identify the ways that Jesus foretold His death and the reason for it.

Read (and Recap) John 3:1-21. Read using different voices or ask for two volunteers and assign one to read the words of Jesus and the other to read Nicodemus while you narrate the remaining part. Strive to involve the students in the story by occasionally stopping and asking questions.

Reinforce the lesson with questions at the end of the story. Was Nicodemus a man of importance, if so, what? Yes, he was a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews. Did Jesus get upset with Nicodemus for coming to see Him at night? No. What is the reason you think Nicodemus came at night? Scared others would see his interest in Jesus or worked all day, could be some possible reasons. Being a well-educated man, did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was saying about being born again at first? No. How does Jesus say one can get eternal life? Believe in Jesus. What does Jesus say is the reason He came? Save the World.

When you're finished reading the story, use the pictures to review the important people and events in the story. Seek a response by the students about their listening assignment. What did they learn about spiritual birth as compared to physical birth? What did Jesus teach about His upcoming death?

Select a volunteer to help you demonstrate how you cannot see the wind but can see the effects of it. Use the fan and a book to show how the pages move. Reiterate the fact that when the Spirit of God moves in someone's life, you can only see the effects of that move. Ask the students what effects they might see in a person's life when the Spirit has moved.

### **Lesson Evaluation:**

Ask for three volunteers to retell the story and assign the role of Jesus, Nicodemus, and the narrator. Remember to prompt the children with "What happened next?"

Ask for a student to explain what it means to be "born again".

Give possible lessons from the story and ask the students to stand up if that lesson existed in the story. *Answers in italics*

- Jesus died for our sins. *Yes*
- Jesus judges the world. *No*
- Jesus can walk on water. *True, but not part of this story.*
- God demonstrates His love for the world. *Yes*
- God can do all things. *True, but not part of this story*

**Need more help?** Find the right [Bible crafts](#) or try this other lesson (PDF) about Jesus and Nicodemus.

[Total: 0 Average: 0/5]



# Learn About Being a Christian

## What are Some Names for Christians?

A Christian is a follower of Jesus. Find words in the puzzle that describe followers of Jesus.

Jesus' followers were called CHRISTIANS for the first time in Antioch because they were like Jesus Christ.

BELIEVERS are people who believe in Jesus.

DISCIPLES are people who learn from Jesus.

When God makes us part of his family, we are his CHILDREN.

We are BROTHERS and SISTERS to each other.

B	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
A	E	W	P	V	L	Z	M	N	R
N	R	L	D	K	Y	S	A	I	E
E	B	S	I	C	K	I	E	Q	H
R	C	X	I	E	T	L	D	T	T
D	N	B	J	S	V	R	M	H	O
L	J	O	I	S	T	E	U	E	R
I	P	R	X	N	E	E	R	G	B
H	H	T	O	A	Z	F	R	S	W
C	U	I	Q	G	H	Y	V	S	F

## What Makes You a Christian?

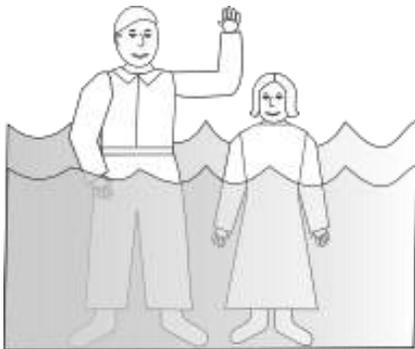
Read Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

Becoming a Christian (being saved, receiving eternal life) is a free gift from God. We cannot earn it ourselves.

- Being a good person **does not** make you a Christian.
- Being baptized **does not** make you a Christian.
- Accepting Jesus' free gift of salvation **does** make you a Christian.

Below each picture, write "yes" if it is a way to become a Christian; write "no" if it is not a way to become a Christian.

being baptized



\_\_\_\_\_

being a good person



\_\_\_\_\_

accepting Jesus' free gift of salvation



\_\_\_\_\_

## How Do You Accept Jesus' Free Gift of Salvation?

- Admit that you have sinned
- Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross
- Repent (turn away) from your sins and say you are sorry
- Ask Jesus to come into your heart
- Ask Jesus to take charge of your life and help you please him



If you have questions about becoming a Christian, you can talk with your teacher or another Christian adult.

## Now What?

After you become a Christian, you belong to Jesus forever. Here are some things you can do to grow as a Christian and please Jesus.

Look up each verse, read it, and draw a line to what it describes.

Acts 19:5

pray



Psalms 1:2

study  
the Bible



1 Thessalonians 5:17

tell people  
about Jesus



Hebrews 10:25

spend time with  
other Christians



Acts 1:8

be baptized to show  
you belong to Jesus



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# “Born Again”

Children’s Sermon Object Lesson on the Jesus and Nicodemus from John 3:1-17

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## Children’s Message: Born Again

Questions from Nicodemus, and Salvation through Faith

**Main Objective:** The Christian concept of being “born again” is a bit strange-sounding, if thought of in a literal sense. It can be challenging to explain to young children especially. The goal here is to communicate that through faith in Christ, we receive new life and hope in the resurrection. We are made new in Him.

**Law/Gospel Theme:** God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus! The blessed and beautiful truth of the Gospel is that we do not have to do anything special in order to receive new life. We only have to believe and receive free salvation!

**Object Lesson Props & Optional Materials:** Baby pictures of celebrities (or people in the church!)

**Bible Passage:** John 3:1-17

## More Ideas for teaching about Jesus and Nicodemus

- [Jesus and Nicodemus Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Nicodemus Seeks Jesus Bible Lesson for Kids](#)
- [Nicodemus Coloring Page](#)
- [Born Again Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Jesus and Nicodemus Crafts for Sunday School](#)

**Message Note:** As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. Use your judgment and ideas to best serve students.



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# Children's Sermon: Jesus and Nicodemus

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*Greet the children, and invite them to consider famous people they know of. (Allow responses for questions...) Do you know any famous celebrities? Who are some people that you can think of who might be famous, or very well-known? If you met someone famous, would you want to ask them questions? I think I would...*

Well, I have here some pictures of famous people. I wonder if you can identify who they might be. *One by one, hold up baby pictures of celebrities or historical figures. It might help to also have an adult picture, to explain who those babies grew up to be.*

Now, those baby photos don't look much like the current pictures, do they? And you wouldn't expect these people to go back to being babies, right? That would be strange.

In our Gospel story today, someone was confused by this concept, because he heard that he should be "born again." There was a man named Nicodemus, and he worked for the church. He was probably pretty important. He had heard about Jesus, and wanted to ask Him some questions about who He was and what He was doing. He came to Jesus at night time, and started asking Him how He was doing the things He did.

Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again, and Nicodemus had a hard time understanding that. Was he supposed to shrink down and become a tiny baby all over again? How could that happen? Jesus explained that this was a different kind of birth. We have physical bodies and physical birth, but being born again happens through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus meant that faith gives us new life. We become a new creation and have a special kind of "birth" that saves us eternally. Do you know what we have to do to receive this? Nothing! All we have to do is believe it, and trust in God.



We accept His free gift of salvation and receive eternal life. Jesus told Nicodemus that God loved us so much He gave up His son. What a beautiful gift! That message wasn't just for Nicodemus. It's for us, too!

All we have to do is believe and receive that new life. We can be "born again", too! Why don't we thank God for that right now?

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## Children's Prayer Moment

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(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us

Thank you that we can have new life, and be born again

Help us remember that every day

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!



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## John 3:1-17 (NIV) Jesus and Nicodemus

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**3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

**3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” **4** “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

**5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** 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.”

**9** “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

**10** “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

**16** 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. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.





This lesson was prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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# Craft Ideas on the Nicodemus and Finding New Life in Jesus

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Born Again...New Life in Christ!

Craft Ideas for Nicodemus and New Life

The idea of being “born again” is a tricky concept for adults and kids alike. In this context, children are encouraged to consider how being a Christian gives us a new sort of life. It can be compared to a butterfly, or a recycled treasure. So these crafts emphasize that concept. Feel free to be as creative, simple, or elaborate as you prefer, according to your audience and setting. Have fun!

## Verses or Captions to Consider...

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. –John 3:16*

*I am a new creation in Christ!*

*God gives me a brand new life...I have been born again!*

*Re-created... Jesus lets us live eternally!*

## More Ideas for teaching about Jesus and Nicodemus

- [Jesus and Nicodemus Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Nicodemus Seeks Jesus Bible Lesson for Kids](#)
- [Nicodemus Coloring Page](#)
- [Born Again Sunday School Lesson](#)
- [Jesus and Nicodemus Children’s Sermon](#)



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# Craft one: “New Creation Butterfly”

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## You will need:

- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Paper bags
- Markers or decorating materials
- Glue and/or tape
- Popsicle sticks or clothespins
- Coffee filters or tissue paper
- Pom poms
- Pipe Cleaners



## Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper bag to look like a butterfly chrysalis.
2. Create a “leaf” and “egg”, if desired, for your butterfly.
3. Make a “caterpillar” by attaching pom poms to a clothespin or popsicle stick. Add google eyes and pipe cleaner “antennae” if you like.
4. For younger students, place the caterpillar inside the bag and have them wait, swapping out later. Older kids (or those crunched on time) can do the butterfly at once.
5. Using the caterpillar clothespin or a new one, make a “butterfly” by attaching tissue paper or colored coffee filters. Pop the butterfly into the “chrysalis” and enjoy!



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# Craft Two: “Up-cycled and born again”

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## You will need:

- Paper bags
- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Glue and/or tape
- Decorative materials (markers, crayons, stickers)
- Old cardboard tubes, paper cups, plates, or other random items.



## Procedure:

1. Set out a variety of materials, some for decorating and some for recycling.
2. Encourage students to use their creativity in creating new objects out of old ones.
3. Decorate, change, and adapt old materials to be useful new things or just fun!
4. Remind students that we are “made new”, too, when we have faith in Christ!





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## *Best Sunday School Curriculum & Resources*

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1. [Sunday School Lessons](#)
2. [Coloring Pages for Sunday School](#)
3. [Sunday School Crafts](#)
4. [Bible Games for Sunday School](#)



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