

## Family Lesson 55

**Principle:** You must believe in Christ to be born again.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus and Nicodemus

**Scripture Reference:** John 3:1-18

**1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Skit Video** - Watch the skit video with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

**3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

**Last week, who did we learn about?** (We learned about the disciples and when they decided to follow Jesus. They spent time with him, learned from him, lived in a way that gave him glory, and told others about him.) **We also have the chance to be disciples, or followers, of Jesus. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, confess our sin, and turn away from it, we can follow Jesus just like his disciples did. We follow him by spending time with him, learning from him, making choices that bring him glory, and telling others about him.**

This week, we are going to learn about a man named Nicodemus and how he became a follower of Jesus. Let's begin reading the Bible in John 3 [NLT].

#### John 3:1-2

<sup>1</sup> There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.

<sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

**Who knows what a Pharisee is?** (The religious leaders of the Jews, similar to a priest or pastor.) **In verse 2, it says that Nicodemus comes after dark. Why do you think he comes to talk to Jesus at night?** (He doesn't want others to see him because he is a Pharisee and many other Pharisees do not like Jesus.) **Nicodemus recognizes that Jesus is from God, but he does not understand that Jesus is God. Let's continue to read the Bible and see what Jesus has to say.**

#### John 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

<sup>4</sup> "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

**Can you tell me when your birthday is? What does that day represent? (Allow responses.) You were born on a specific day as a baby, and we celebrate that day every year! Nicodemus is thinking about his physical birth when God created him as a baby. Nicodemus is right; he cannot be born as a baby again. Let's see how Jesus responds to Nicodemus in the Bible.**

#### John 3:5-7

<sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup> So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

**What do you think Jesus is talking about when he says, "You must be born again?" (Allow responses.) Do you think he is talking about being born again as a baby? (Allow responses.) Jesus is not talking about being physically born again as a baby. He is talking about being born again into a new spiritual life. God created us to be in a perfect relationship with him. But our**

hearts are filled with sin, and God cannot be around sin. There is nothing we can do on our own to be in relationship with him.

### **Ephesians 2:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup> For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.*

This says that God gives us life when we believe in what Jesus did for us. This is what Jesus is talking about when he tells Nicodemus that all must be born again. We cannot be born again as babies, but we gain new life when we believe in Jesus. He removes our sin so that we can live with him for eternity. Let's continue reading the Bible.

### **John 3:8**

*<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.*

This verse is hard to understand. We are called to have faith even when we don't completely understand something. We know that when we believe who Jesus is and trust in him, we are "born again," even if we do not completely understand how this happens. We have faith in who Jesus is and who we are when we have new life in him. Jesus uses an example in verse 8. What did Jesus use to show that we believe in things we cannot see or fully understand? (Wind.) Can you see the wind? No, but you still know it's there. That's like having faith. Let's continue reading the Bible to take a closer look at what faith means.

### **Hebrews 11:1**

*<sup>1</sup> Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*

We cannot see the air or wind, but we know it is real. We see trees move when the wind blows, and we have faith that the wind and air are real. When we have faith in Jesus, we believe in who he is and what he has done for us. We have faith that he is real and that he brings us new life.

Let's continue reading the Bible in John 3.

### **John 3:9-12**

*<sup>9</sup> How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. <sup>12</sup> But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"*

Nicodemus knows a lot about God. Is it enough to just know about God? Does that bring you new life? (Allow responses.) Being a Pharisee (a Jewish leader) is not enough for Nicodemus. Knowing a lot about God was not enough. For us, being a straight A student, an obedient child, a star athlete, a dancer, a pianist, a gymnast, or a good person is not enough. We may know a lot about the Bible, but that is not enough. We must believe and trust in Jesus.

Let's keep reading in John 3.

### **John 3:13-18**

*<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.*

*<sup>16</sup> "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

*<sup>18</sup> "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not*

*believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.*

**Why did God give Jesus to the world?** (Because of his love for us.) **What kind of life will we have if we believe and trust in him?** (New life, eternal life.) **What does eternal mean?** (Forever, no end.) **What does Jesus do for us?** (Saves us from our sin by taking our punishment or judgment) **Who does not have to go through judgment in verse 18?** (Those who trust in Jesus.) **What does trusting in Jesus mean?** (To believe in who he is and what he has done for us as our Savior.)

## Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for his love and mercy, even though we do not deserve it.

## Activity

### Birthday Invitation

The purpose is to focus on and memorize John 3:16.

#### Supplies:

Worksheet - "Birthday Invitation Coloring Sheet" (available on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Give your child the birthday invitation coloring sheet. As they color, have a conversation about what it means to have a spiritual birthday. Read the verse with them and remind them that **God loves us, and because of that love, he sent his Son Jesus to save us from our sins. We are invited to have new life and live forever with him if we believe and trust in Jesus. Only God can remove our sin and change who we are. He desires for us to be who he created us to be. When we believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, and follow him, we will be "born again." Jesus will give us new life.**

