

# Jesus And Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

## **MEMORY VERSE**

John 3:17

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A “Pinwheel” template (included with your curriculum), and as many construction paper or tag board squares, scissors, markers or crayons, straight pins, and pencils with erasers as the number of children in your class.

A chalkboard, chalk and an eraser.

As many small prizes (pencils, stickers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **"The Wind Blows" Pinwheel**

Using the enclosed template, follow the directions for making pinwheels and have each child in your class make one.

Allow the children to play with the pinwheels for a while before using an attention getting signal to start your lesson time. Explain that we will be referring to the pinwheel later in today’s lesson.

## LESSON TIME!

Today we are going to meet a man who met with Jesus one quiet night in Jerusalem. His name was Nicodemus. We will see that he met with Jesus face to face, mind to mind, and heart to heart. He was a true seeker. That means he really wanted to understand the truth Jesus was teaching. He was an older man, and he did not pretend he had all the answers. He was willing to risk his reputation, his wealth, and his power to discover truth. Nicodemus discovered what God wants all people to discover **we all need a new, spiritual birth.**

### JOHN 3:1

**There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.**

God wants us to know right from the start some things about Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, this means he was one of the religious leaders of his day. He tried to do everything just as it was written in his religious books. He wanted to keep every rule. He was also very well educated. He knew all there was to know about the religious system of the Jews. Pharisees were often proud and self-righteous. They looked down on those that did not meet their religious expectations.

Nicodemus was also one of the Sanhedrin, seventy men who were the caretakers of the Jewish religious system. Only the greatest men could be a part of this elite group. A member of the Sanhedrin was a member for life. It made them enormously powerful and revered. It usually meant they would be very wealthy too. The Sanhedrin decided everything for the Jewish people. All of this meant that Nicodemus was a very important man to the other men of Jerusalem.

### JOHN 3:2

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Nicodemus came to Jesus at nighttime. Remember that in the daytime Jesus had lots of crowds around Him. The other religious leader did not approve of Jesus, so Nicodemus came secretly at night to find out who Jesus was. It did not bother Jesus that Nicodemus did not want his peers to know he had talked to Him; He met him more than half way. Nicodemus chose to find Jesus at night because he was determined to have Jesus all to himself. The Bible tells us, "This man came to Jesus." Every kind of person can come to Jesus, those who are poor and crippled, and those who are rich, successful and important. All people are the same to Jesus. Riches and power do not impress him; He loves every one of us the same. He loves us all completely and fully.

Nicodemus called Jesus "Rabbi." That means he thought Jesus was a good teacher about the things of God. He told Jesus what they knew about Him, that He was a "teacher come from God." Nicodemus told Jesus what those seventy religious leaders knew about Him. They had watched Jesus and knew that only someone involved deeply with God could do what Jesus did. The other members of the Sanhedrin pretended that they didn't believe Jesus was from God, but Nicodemus let the cat out of the bag by saying "we know."

### JOHN 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus ignored Nicodemus comments about the perception that He was just a rabbi, a mere teacher or prophet. Those titles might sound nice to human ears, but they are such small titles compared to who Jesus really is, God and Savior. Jesus goes right to Nicodemus' need, because Jesus knows that **we all need a new, spiritual birth**. Why do we need a new birth? Because we are all spiritually dead. We have a physical body that lives, but without Christ, our spirits are dead.

### JOHN 3:4-7

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Nicodemus asks a very important question; he asks how? If we find out what we need but not how to receive it, it doesn't really help us.

### The "What and How" Game

Ask the children several "what" and "how" questions. When asking them the "what" questions, allow them to answer verbally. When asking them the "how" questions, have them act out the activity. For example:

What do you do to your teeth in the morning? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime brushing their teeth.)

What do you do with a glass of milk? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime drinking from a glass.)

What do you do when you want light in a dark room? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime turning on a light or light switch.)

You can think of some more questions to ask. Reinforce the importance of not only knowing what to do when it comes to understanding the “new birth,” but also how that is important.

Jesus gives us the answers to all of the how questions. Nicodemus wasn't being silly when he asked if a man could become a baby again. He was really trying to understand. It probably sounded like a marvelous thing to start all over again, but how could it be done? Nicodemus was trying to understand what Jesus was saying **we all need a new, spiritual birth.**

Jesus simply answered Nicodemus' how question. He told him that he was born of the flesh in a physical way, a physical birth, but his spirit was not born yet. His spirit needed to be born by the Spirit of God. That happens when we ask Jesus to come into our lives and forgive us our sins. At that time the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and gives us spiritual life; we are born again spiritually. The Holy Spirit comes in and gives new life! The Holy Spirit lives the

life of Christ through us; He transforms us into new creatures and we are born again.

## Fellowship in the Spirit

On the chalkboard write the following words in the following formation:

FATHER

SON

HOLY SPIRIT    spirit  
                          soul  
                          body

Explain to the children that God is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one. He created man in His image in an inferior trinity of spirit, soul, and body. Explain that God created man to fellowship with him in the realm of the spirit.

Erase the word "spirit" and draw a line under the words "HOLY SPIRIT" that causes the appearance of separation between the two lists. Explain to the children that sin in the world caused all of us to be born spiritually dead. The only way to be reconciled to God is to be born again, by receiving Jesus and His work on the cross for our sins.

Erase the line and rewrite the word "spirit." Illustrate that Jesus gives us a new birth in our spirits and reconciles us to God.

### JOHN 3:8

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Jesus goes on to explain to Nicodemus that this transformation happens in us by simple faith when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We may not see this new birth or watch it as it happens but we will be able to see the effects of the Spirit in our lives. We'll know we are born again by the changes the Holy Spirit makes in us. We don't see the wind visibly, but we do see its effect.

## "The Wind Blows" Pinwheel

Have the children get out the pinwheels that were made at the beginning of class. Have the whole class blow the pinwheels to make them spin.

Encourage the children to watch one another as they blow on the pinwheels. Ask the class if they could see the air moving the pinwheels. Point out to them that they could not see the air, but they could feel it, and see its effect on the pinwheels.

### JOHN 3:9-14

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

"Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.



"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Nicodemus asked again that important question, how? Jesus had just explained how. He points out that Nicodemus was the top teacher of that day, maybe even the most popular teacher. Jesus wasn't mocking Nicodemus' inability to understand what He was trying to teach him; He was, however, revealing the great inadequacy of Nicodemus' understanding. Nicodemus was all the best things a religious leader should have been, but Jesus was pointing out that it wasn't good enough because **we all need a new, spiritual birth.**

It doesn't matter if we know more than someone else. It doesn't help to have all the philosophies and great religious practices of man, or the best human thinking; **we all need a new, spiritual birth.** It is the only way to be restored to the intended place of communion and fellowship with God. We cannot trust in anything in ourselves. We must only trust in the work of Christ on the cross: His death, burial, and resurrection.

In simple obedience, we look to the salvation God has provided through Jesus Christ just as the children of Israel, in simple obedience, looked up to the raised serpent and lived in Numbers 21:9. We look to Jesus and live spiritually. The serpent represented God's judgment on the people's sin. When Jesus died on the cross He took our sin upon Himself. If we would only look to the one who took our judgment upon Himself, then we would live. The Holy Spirit then breathes into our spirits the breath of life because **We all need a new, spiritual birth.**

**JOHN 3:15-17**

"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

These are some of the most glorious words in the Bible. Many of you probably know verse sixteen. Let's say it together...

### "For God So Loved the World..."

On the chalk board write out the verse, John 3:16, leaving out the words "the world", and "whoever":

For God so loved the \_\_\_\_\_ that He gave His only begotten Son, that \_\_\_\_\_ believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.

One at a time, fill in the blanks with the names of the children in your class. After reading the name of each child, erase the name and fill in another.

Try to read as many children's names in your class as possible.

It is not enough to be born only physically and have a living body. That living body, no matter how much good it does, will never be acceptable to God, because **we all need a new, spiritual birth**. We need a Savior; we need Jesus.

### JOHN 3:18-21

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

When we believe in Jesus, the work of salvation He did on the cross for us saves us. We are no longer condemned; the death sentence our sin requires is pardoned, because of the blood of Jesus Christ. People who reject Jesus and His work on the cross are condemned because they are already dead in sin, and they refuse to receive the life that Jesus has provided.

God sent us His light; He sent us a way to receive a new spiritual life. The light is Jesus. We receive life through Jesus' death. It is a gift from God, because He loves us so much. We simply reach out and receive the gift.

## **The Gift**

Before class gather as many small prizes as the number of children in your class (for added effect you can wrap them). One by one offer a gift to each student by extending it to him or her. Be sure that they take the gift from your hand only after you have extended the offer to them. Go around one by one in your class and offer the gift to them. Have them wait until everyone has theirs before they open it (if wrapped).

Illustrate for the children that our gift of salvation is extended the same way. God offers it to us in His extended hand and we must

take it. If each child in your class refused to take the gift offered to them, they would not be the recipients of the gift. If we do not take the gift of salvation that the Lord offers to us, we do not become the recipients of His gift of mercy and grace.

Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come and live inside of you and make your spirit alive through His Holy Spirit? You can do that anytime, even right now. This is the most important thing you could ever do in your life. Won't you be born again today?

## **PRAYER**

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so. If children respond, make sure that you fill out a response card for them and give them a Bible.

## Template - Pinwheel (1 of 2)

### What You'll Need

Heavy construction paper or lightweight tagboard

Scissors

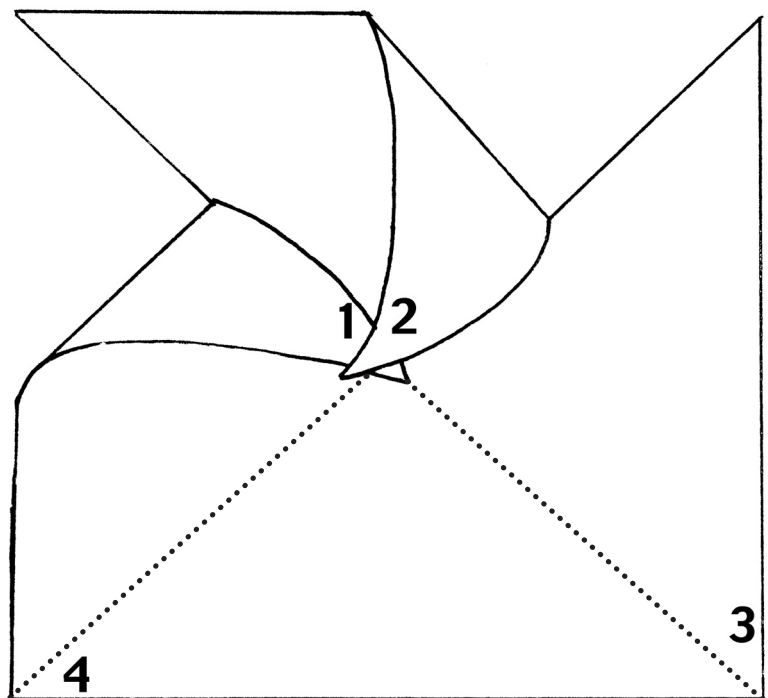
A penny

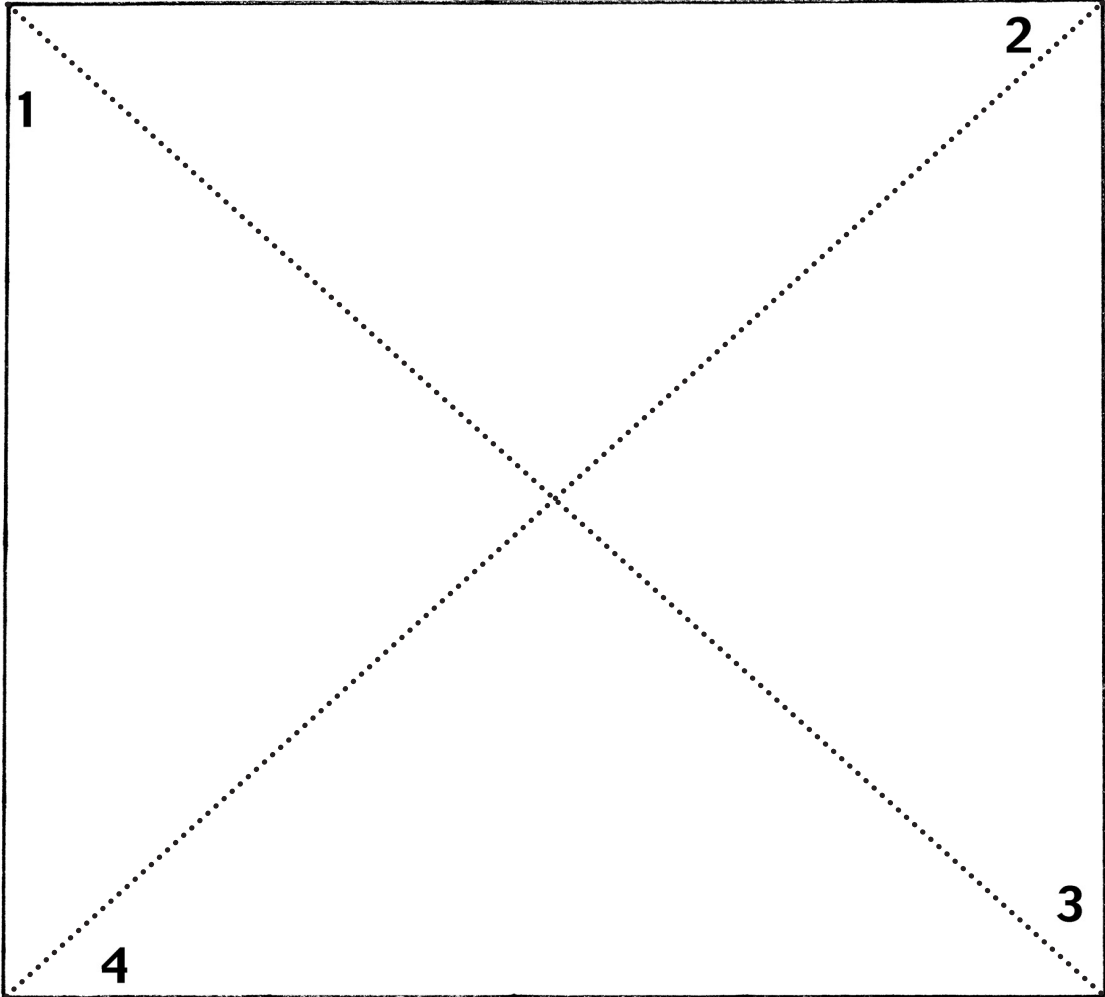
A straight pin

Crayons, markers or paint for decorating

A pencil with an eraser, or a stick, or a straw

- Cut a piece of paper into a square, or trace the pattern on the next page.
- Trace around the penny right in the center.
- Now is a good time to decorate both the front and back of your pinwheel. Try some stripe designs or crazy pictures!
- Then cut in from each corner to the edge of the circle. Cut on the dotted lines.
- Mark the corners 1, 2, 3, 4 as you see in this picture.
- Bend each numbered corner into the center. (Don't fold them)
- Stick the pin through all four corners into the center.
- Then put the pin into the eraser of the pencil or the end of your straw or stick.
- Now... Blow on it or run in the wind and watch your pinwheel spin.





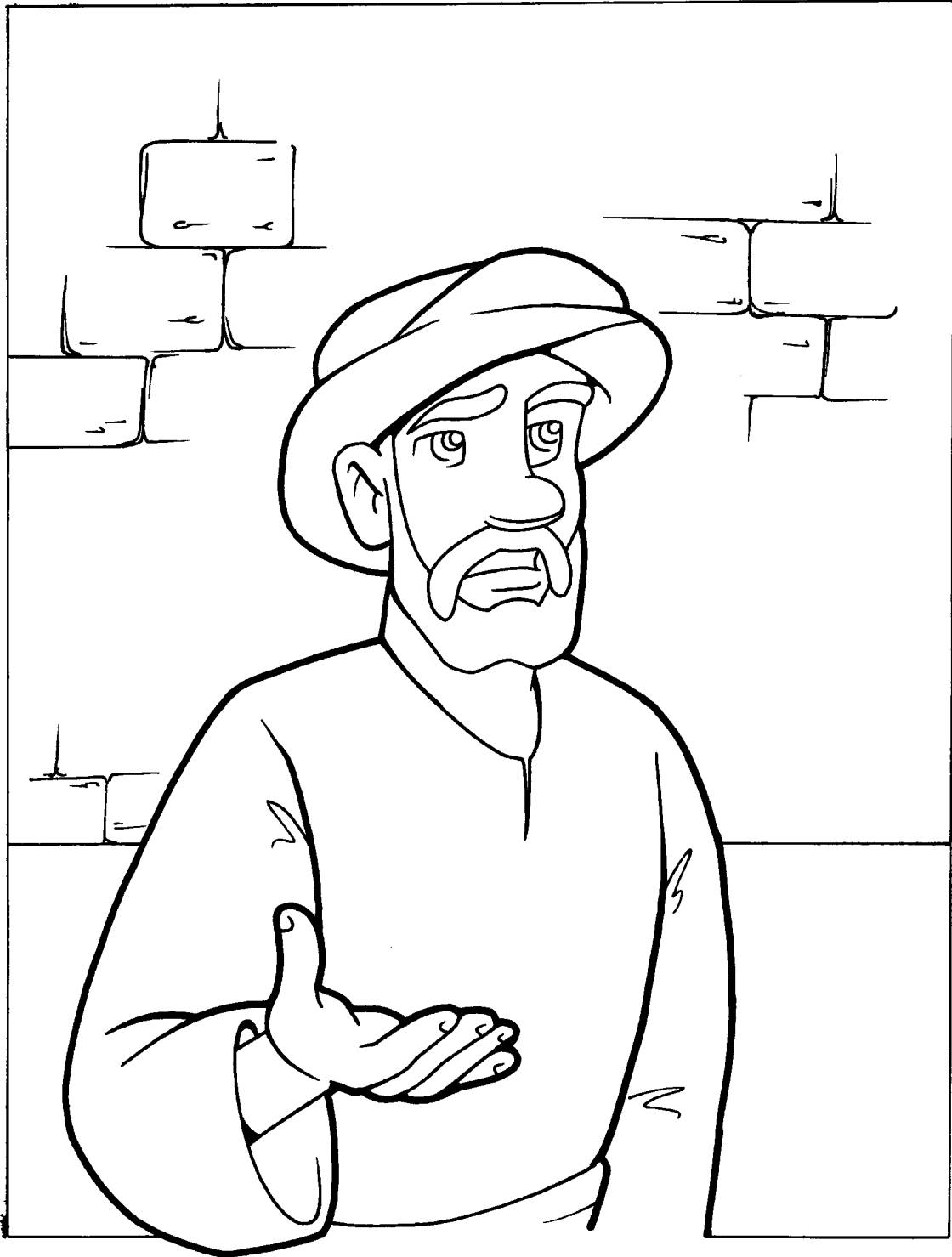
**Jesus talks to Nicodemus about God's love.**

John 3:1-21



# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

(JOHN 3:1-21)



"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

**JOHN 3:4-5**



# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

(JOHN 3:1-21)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." JOHN 3:17*

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

1. "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews." **JOHN 3:1**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

**PUT AN X IN FRONT OF THE CORRECT ANSWER:**

2. "This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are...'" **JOHN 3:2**  
\_\_\_ a teacher come from God  
\_\_\_ from Nazareth

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

3. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he (**CAN, CANNOT**) see the kingdom of God.'" **JOHN 3:3**

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

4. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **JOHN 3:6**  
**TRUE OR FALSE**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:**

5. "Nicodemus answered and said to Him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you the (**TAX COLLECTOR, TEACHER**) of Israel, and do not know these things?' "**JOHN 3:9-10**
6. "...that whoever (**BELIEVES, DOES NOT BELIEVE**) in Him should not perish but have eternal life." **JOHN 3:15**
7. "For God so (**LOVED, LIKED**) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **JOHN 3:16**
8. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be (**SAVED, LOST**)." **JOHN 3:17**

# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

(JOHN 3:1-21)

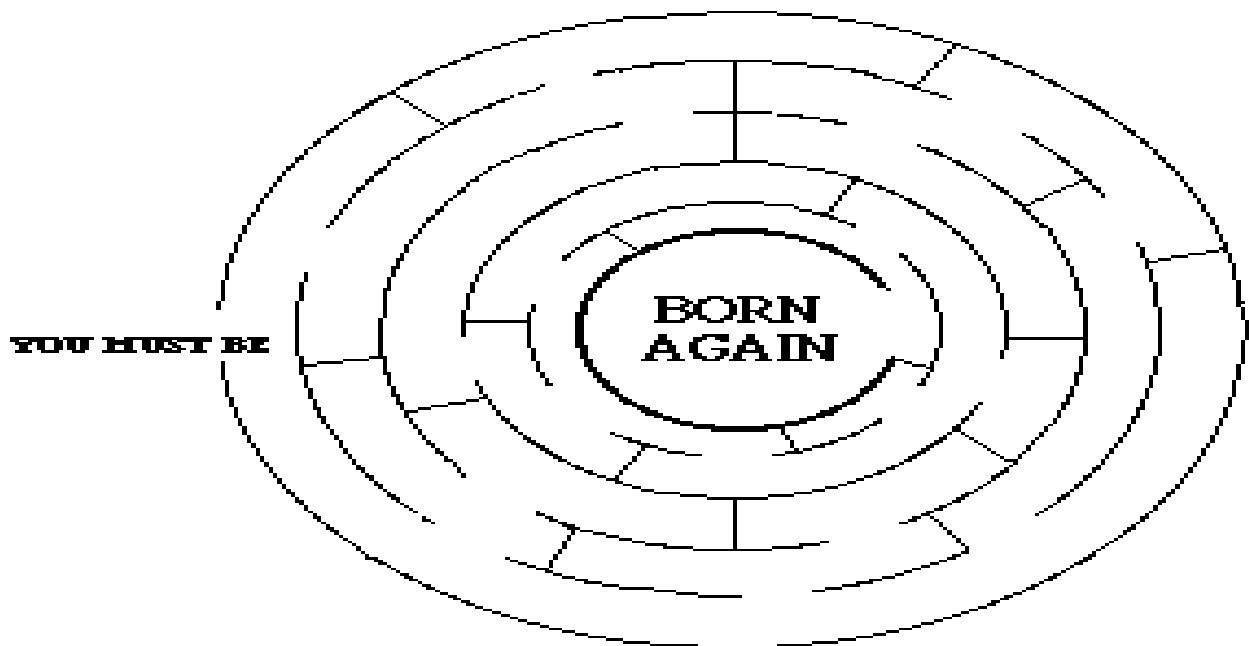
K I N G D O M L S A V E D B A  
R F Y U D T N I C O D E M U S  
A Y T D R E G J U B V P M D V  
B O L U I B N P H A R I S E E  
B E T N T S S M G N A Z Z K K  
I H W Q E J C T E H E F B B U  
T P U T P V N I C D I D I U O  
I K G N E H A I P X N B O Y Z  
R J H A L A D E A L T O Z G B  
I H B M J T C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

BORN AGAIN  
CONDEMNED  
DISCIPLES  
FLESH  
GOD

HEAVENLY  
JESUS  
KINGDOM  
LIFTED  
LIGHT

NICODEMUS  
PHARISEE  
RABBI  
SAVED  
SON OF MAN

SPIRIT  
TEACHER  
TRUTH  
WIND



# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

(JOHN 3:1-21)

## MEMORY VERSE:

*"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* JOHN 3:17

## TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews." JOHN 3:1  
TRUE OR FALSE

## PUT AN X IN FRONT OF THE CORRECT ANSWER:

2. "This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are...' " JOHN 3:2  
\_\_\_ a teacher come from God  
\_\_\_ from Nazareth

## FILL IN THE BLANKS:

3. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" JOHN 3:3

## TRUE OR FALSE:

4. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." JOHN 3:6  
TRUE OR FALSE

## FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. "Nicodemus answered and said to Him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, and do not know these things?' " JOHN 3:9-10
6. "...that whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Him should not perish but have eternal life." JOHN 3:15
7. "For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." JOHN 3:16
8. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be \_\_\_\_\_." JOHN 3:17

# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

## (JOHN 3:1-21)

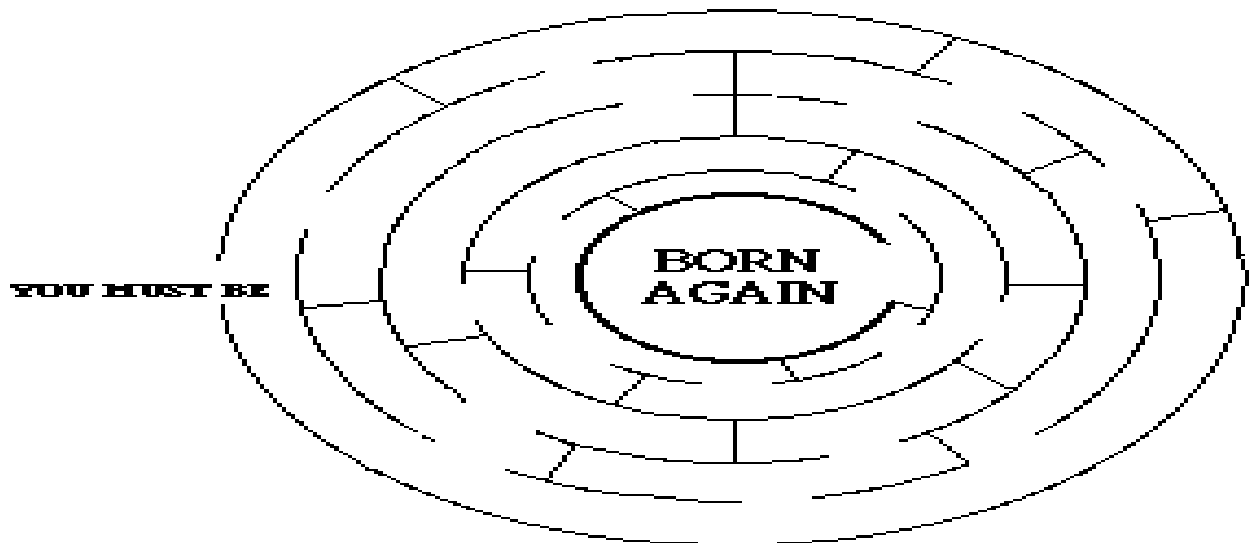
O O W Q I K T W S V Q L U A H O Y B Q V B B U T O  
 S A Y W U S H K I B N U W D J U T V U A I T C C Y  
 L V J I A M T I Y G Y F Q Y Y I W S M E Z P Q M E  
 K C T T F B T E K L M P H A R I S E E I F Z N P A  
 W A R A F J O I A C N L N S K I U U J S Z F R M E  
 V L N E T T N R G Z A E T R U T H T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

BORN AGAIN  
 CONDEMNED  
 DISCIPLES  
 FLESH  
 GOD

HEAVENLY  
 JESUS  
 KINGDOM  
 LIFTED UP  
 LIGHT

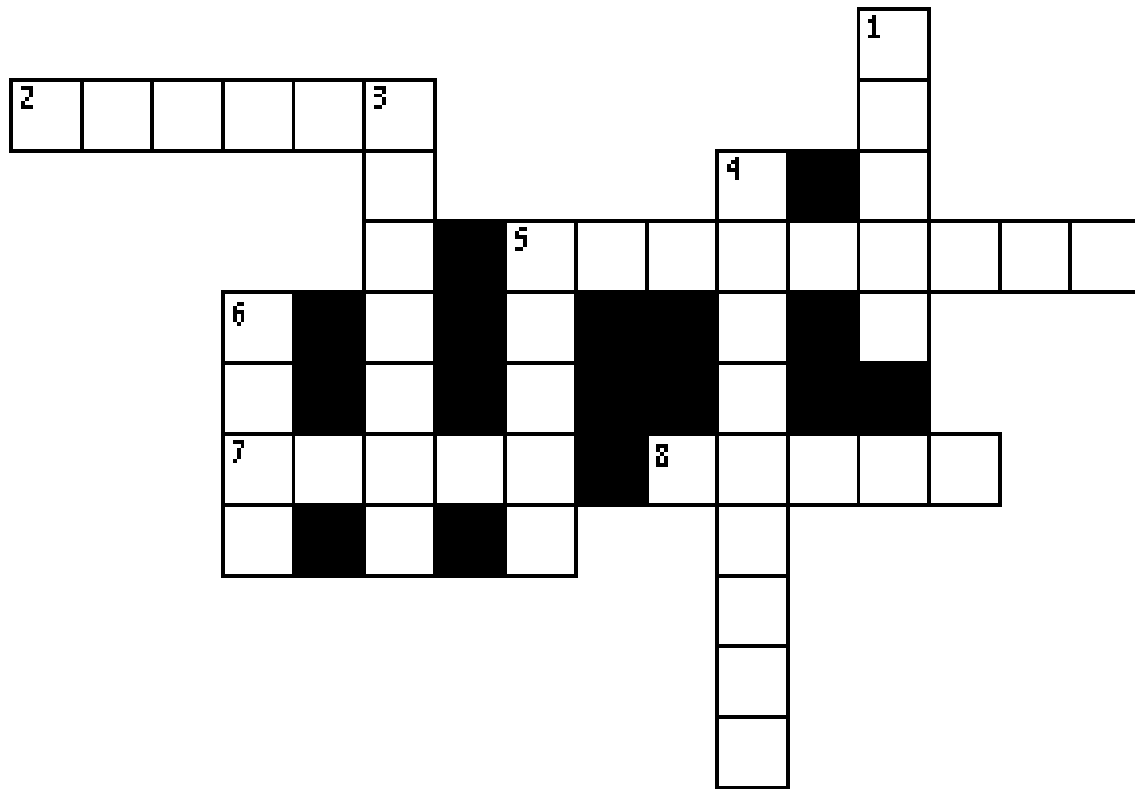
NICODEMUS  
 PHARISEE  
 RABBI  
 SAVED  
 SON OF MAN

SPIRIT  
 TEACHER  
 TRUTH  
 WIND



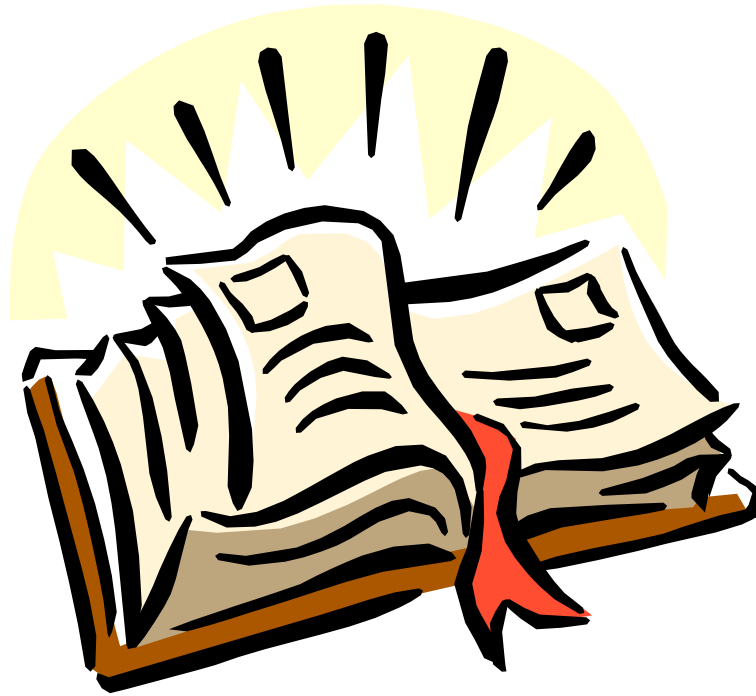
# 178. JESUS AND NICODEMUS

## (JOHN 3:1-21)



- 5 ACROSS "There was a man of the Pharisees named \_\_\_\_\_, a ruler of the Jews." **JOHN 3:1**
- 5 DOWN "This man came to Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_ and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God.'" **JOHN 3:2**
- 4 DOWN "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" **JOHN 3:3**
- 7 ACROSS "That which is born of the flesh is \_\_\_\_\_..." **JOHN 3:6**
- 2 ACROSS "...and that which is born of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 3:6**
- 3 DOWN "Nicodemus answered and said to Him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, and do not know these things?'" **JOHN 3:9-10**
- 6 DOWN "...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 3:15**
- 1 DOWN "For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **JOHN 3:16**
- 8 ACROSS "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 3:17**

# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

---



**LESSON TITLE:** Jesus and Nicodemus

**THEME:** We all need a new, spiritual birth.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 3:1-21

# Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **Jesus and Nicodemus**. Nicodemus was a leader among the Jews and came to Jesus during the night to ask Him some questions. How Jesus answered gives us one of the clearest statements of salvation in the whole Bible. Jesus clearly said that we "must be born again."

We learned on Sunday how that **we all need a new, spiritual birth**. Only the Lord can make all things brand new. If we only trust in Jesus we can receive this new birth. Enjoy this week as you continue to look at our wonderful salvation and new birth found in Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 3:1-21**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

# Twister

**Text: John 3:8** - "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**Also read John 3:1-8**

I can remember as a kid growing up, we would have these miniature tornadoes that would spin down onto the playground during recess. It was just wind moving around very fast causing kind of a whirlwind, but they would pick up a lot of dust and dirt. They would also pickup plastic sandwich bags, paper sacks, napkins and other assorted litter and twirl them all up into the air. After lifting up the trash it would fling off a few items at a time from the core, releasing them to drift back down to earth. If you were in a good spot you could watch the twister move, zigzagging all across the playground. It moved left or right, as the wind would shift it. It was as if you could see the wind. Only what you were really seeing was the dirt and trash. You would really only see the effects of the wind.

Jesus told Nicodemus that the Spirit of God is like the wind. We can not see Him, but we can see the effects of His power in our lives. Just like we could see the twister in the playground because of the things that it twirled around, we can see the Spirit's work in our life when He saves us and makes a change in our hearts and lives. Other people sitting in a good spot to see us can also see God at work in our lives. So the Spirit of God will blow like the wind into the heart of anyone who will receive Jesus as Savior. The Spirit of God can not be seen but He is at work drawing people toward Jesus (John 6:44).

So the next time you see a tornado on television or a whirlwind on your playground, think about how the Spirit of God is moving all over the world to reach the hearts of men and women, boys and girls. We might not actually see the Spirit of God, but we can see what He does for those who accept Jesus into their lives. Nicodemus learned that he could experience God's Spirit in His life by believing in the very One he was speaking with. Did you know that you could do the same when you believe in Jesus?

- Have you ever seen a real tornado? What was that like?
- How is the wind like the Holy Spirit?
- How can the Holy Spirit be seen in your life?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Wind:** One of the symbols for the Holy Spirit.



Day Two

# Born Twice

**Text: John 3:4** - "Nicodemus said to Him, 'how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'"

**Also read John 3:1-8**

Have you ever heard someone say, "If you are born once you will die twice, but if you are born twice you will die only once?" You kind of have to think about that question for a little bit. What does it mean? Well, everyone is born into this world as a brand new baby. Also everyone will die someday, one birth and one death. But the Bible says that those who die without knowing Jesus they will spend all of eternity separated from Him. This is called the "second death (Revelation 21:8)."

So someone who dies without Jesus will have one birth and two deaths. None of us want to have that happen. God has provided a way so that it doesn't have to happen to any one. How? By being born again! If we are born a second time then we won't have to die twice, in fact we will have eternal life and live forever.

When Nicodemus met with Jesus he didn't understand how someone could be born twice. But Jesus explains to Nicodemus that there are two kinds of births. The first is our physical birth. That is when you were a brand new baby. The second birth is a new spiritual birth.

How can someone be born spiritually? This happens when someone accepts Jesus into their heart. When we accept God's love and sacrifice for us and we ask him to forgive us of our sins, then the Spirit of God gives a new birth to our spirit. We become alive inside. The Holy Spirit lives in us to be a comfort, a guide and the power source we need to live for God the rest of our lives. This is what it means to be born of the Spirit. The Lord has made it so easy to come to Him through Jesus that no one should ever have to experience that "second death." We need to accept God's salvation and be born again into eternal life.

- Why do you think we need a new birth to be right with God?
- Have you been born again?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Born Again:** Receiving Jesus as our savior by trusting in Him. Our spirit is made alive through the Holy Spirit.

# Snake on a Stick

**Text: John 3:14** - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

**Also read Numbers 21:4-9**

Do you like snakes? How would you feel about finding a few of them in your path as you are hiking in the mountains? Most people do not like snakes. A snake usually isn't the favorite choice for a stuffed animal to cuddle with at bedtime. Nor is it the most popular choice for a family pet. It's as if there is a curse on snakes. Have these slithering reptiles just gotten a "bad rap" or should I say "dissed" or better yet "hissed"? Well there is a reason why this may be.

In the first book of the Bible, *Genesis* there is a story about a snake. It is the story about Adam and Eve in the *Garden of Eden*. It is a true story about how the serpent deceived Eve. The snake was really Satan in disguise. The story is about how all of mankind became trapped in sin. Because of this, sin will always be associated with Satan, who is described as a serpent. This is probably why people still today think of snakes as evil. God put a curse on snakes that they would slither on their stomachs on the ground.

In John 3:14 we see that Jesus said that His death on the cross would be like the time that a snake was lifted up in the wilderness. What was He talking about? This is talking about another story in the Bible. The story is about a time when Moses was commanded by God to put a brass serpent on a pole for the sick people to look at and be healed. Poisonous snakes were biting the people as judgment for their sin. God provided a way for them to be healed. If they would look at the snake on the pole they would live but if they did not they would die. None would live if bitten, unless they looked at the snake.

This is all a picture of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus became a curse for us by dying on the cross (*Galatians 3:13*). He took the sin, which curses all mankind with separation from God, and died in our place. So when we look to Jesus' death on the cross, it is just like the people bitten by the snakes looking to the snake on the pole to save them. Jesus, who took the curse of our sin, will save everyone who looks to Him for salvation.

- What do you think about snakes?
- When we realize we've been "bitten by a poisonous snake" (a sinner) what should we do?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Lifted Up:** Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

Day Four

## He Loves Me...He Loves Me Not...

**Text: John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

**Also read Romans 5:8**

Picking the dandelion from the grass, the young girl began to pull the petals out one by one and with the first said, "He loves me." Then she would pull another and say, "He loves me not." Then another, "He loves me." Then another, "He loves me not." Then another, "He loves me." Then still another, "He loves me not." Until she pulled the last petal, which ended in a shout with "He loves me!"

Have you ever heard of this game? The funny thing is that no matter how many petals that were on the flower or even if she said, "He loves me," after each time she pulled out a petal, it wouldn't change the young man's heart for the girl. But a lot of people feel as though they are playing the same game in wondering if God loves them or not. They just don't know for sure if He really loves them. Or worse, they may think that maybe He doesn't even care if they exist at all. Have you ever wondered if God loves you?

God wants you to be very sure of His love for you. He does not want one person in the entire world to ever have to wonder if He loves them. In order to make sure everyone would know His love He gave us His word. The Bible is the truth about God's love for us. John 3:16 (see above), probably the most famous verse in the Bible, declares God's love for us. God's son is Jesus, and Jesus is a living example of God's word. John 1:1 says that Jesus was the word and the word was God and verse 14 says that the word became flesh and came to live as a man. This was so that we would see God's love in Jesus and through His death we might have everlasting life. So God tells us through the Bible and through Jesus that He loves us. We can be sure that He loves us because the Bible tells us so.

Do you know the song "Jesus Loves Me"? Part of it goes like this, "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me...The Bible tells me so!"

- Do you know for sure that God loves you?
- How does John 3:16 help you to understand God's love for you?

### Kid's Bible Activity



As a family spend the next few minutes worshipping the Lord. You can sing "Jesus Loves Me" together or maybe "Lord I Lift Your Name on High."

Day Five

# Bats of the Bible

**Text: John 3:19** - "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

**Also read John 3:19-21**

Have you ever studied bats in school? One of the interesting things about bats is that they sleep all day, usually in a cave or dark place, and will only come out at night. That is when they look for food and do all of the other things that bats do. But one thing is for sure! Bats hate the light! They will always return to their cave, or resting place before the sun comes up the next day. They can't stand to be in the light. It is interesting also that there are some people described in the Bible who are a lot like bats. Let's look them up and see what the Bible says.

The bats of the Bible are described in John 3:19-21. These verses say that light (Jesus) has come into the world, but there are people who love darkness instead of Jesus, because they practice or do evil things. People who make a habit out of doing evil are people who really hate the light (Jesus). They will not come to the light (Jesus) because they are afraid the light will expose their evil deeds. Sounds a lot like a bat! When the light comes you can find them hiding out somewhere in a dark place. God would have them come to Him and turn away from doing evil things, but unfortunately some people love what they are doing more than the light of Jesus. They reject Jesus, the life and light of the world.

When we follow Jesus and obey the commands of the Bible, we show people we love the light. Obeying God and living "Christ-like" are great examples to others that we love the light, we want nothing to do with darkness. What a wonderful life we can have in the light! Do you need to come into the light of God today? Are you willing to make Jesus your Lord and Savior? Come into His wonderful light today; don't hang out in the darkness any longer.

- Have you ever seen a real bat?
- Why do most people who do evil want to do it in the darkness?
- Why is it so important to come into the light of Jesus?

## Kid's Prayer Time



This week we learned a lot about Jesus and His wonderful new birth that He offers each one of us. Let's pray this week and thank Him for such a great salvation.