

Small Group Guide Sheet

Older – January 14 & 18

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| Lesson: | Nicodemus Visits Jesus |
| Callback: | LT: Jesus Calls Us Students: To Abundant Life |
| Memory Verse: | HOT Seat! (LT will lead this and it will be used for all of Unit 5.) |
| SOAP: | Hand out “tally” sheets to each student. SGG reads John 3:1-21 to the students but as you read, they will be making tally marks on the “tally sheet” for as many times as they hear the words indicated on the “tally” sheet. Let’s see how many times each word is used. |
| Observation (Sorry, this is a lot of talking but it is important to understand the scripture.) | <p>Tell the students that these words are important and here is why:</p> <p>BORN – Nicodemus is confused about being born again. He understands what it means to be physically born but Jesus is talking about a new birth from water and the Spirit. In baptism, God delivers a promise that we are given new life through Christ. It can be confusing for us to understand how that works, just like it was for Nicodemus.</p> <p>GOD – God’s name is mentioned repeatedly. After all, God is the main actor. God sent Jesus. God loves. God forgives. God makes things new.</p> <p>VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU – Jesus begins his explanations this way more than once. We know that Jesus only speaks truth.</p> <p>SPIRIT – Nicodemus does not have a very good understanding of what he cannot see. This can be hard for us as well. We know that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity and is active in creating our faith, yet we cannot touch or see it.</p> <p>BELIEVE – The text uses the word believe to mean faith or trust. We believe in God not just</p> |

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| | <p>when we say God exists, but when we hear the good news of what has been done through Jesus, and when we trust that those words and the promise belong to us.</p> <p>WORLD – God sent Jesus into the world. God loved all of us enough to become a human being and save us. We believe that Jesus came to earth for all people.</p> <p>LIGHT & DARKNESS – Night or darkness is used to suggest unbelief. Light is belief. When Nicodemus comes at night, it shows us that he does not understand what Jesus is saying, and therefore, does not trust in God's love and promises. Jesus is called "the light" who came into the world. It is because of what Jesus teaches and does that we have faith.</p> |
| Application | Words are important to us, and we learn a lot from them. They help us understand one another and help us to learn about God's love for us. |
| Activity | <p>Challenge: Share the Good News!</p> <p>The good news is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that Jesus came to the world, taught about God's love, 2. died on the cross and was resurrected for the world. <p>This is news that is meant to be shared. Part of following Jesus is finding ways to share this news with others.</p> <p>So, I challenge you, as many tally marks you made for "GOD" is how many people you could talk about Jesus to this week.</p> <p>Scrabble: Use the letters to make words that describe God (metaphors).</p> |
| Prayer | God, thank you for your Word. We are learning so much! Give us ample opportunities to share you, our great big GOD with everyone around us. Amen |