

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Invitation to Abundant Life

John 3:1-21

Older 3-5
Jan. 14 & 18

Unit Verse: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

The Point & Call Back:
Jesus calls us to Abundant Life

STORY SUMMARY: Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, an educated man, and he was intrigued by Jesus. He had many questions about who Jesus was and the news that Jesus had to share with the world. Early in the story, Nicodemus seems to have trouble understanding Jesus' answers. Nicodemus believed that Jesus had come from God because of the miracles that Jesus was carrying out. Nicodemus came looking for more proof of who Jesus really was as well as what that meant for him and other believers. Yet Jesus' answers were unclear, and Nicodemus became even more confused. When he spoke of being born again (or from above, the original text can mean both), did Jesus really mean a person could literally climb back into the womb? What did Jesus mean? After all the confusion Nicodemus experienced, he was finally silent when he heard Jesus' words of promise: "Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, The Inclusive Bible). God's good news was as welcome in Nicodemus' ears as it is in our own. These are words that need to be heard again and again.

THE POINT: Even those who have difficulty with Jesus' message have a place in God's story. Nicodemus was a scholar, Jewish leader, and Pharisee. Nicodemus was used to living under the letter of the law and thriving. Yet, when he came to Jesus at night, Nicodemus was confused. In spite of all of his education and knowledge—or perhaps because of it—Nicodemus struggled with Jesus' message. Jesus gently shared God's good news with him.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Images of God

God is so much more than our human minds can comprehend. Because our language is inadequate to fully convey who God is, we turn to metaphors that describe single aspects of God. Using a wide variety of images found in Scripture and elsewhere helps us to understand more completely the fullness of God.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Fellowship

Because the good news shared with Nicodemus is life changing, we repeat it too one another often, both in words and in how we are for one another. Students already understand the importance of relationships between their families and friends and can be encouraged to continue looking for ways to care for and support one another.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers,

This week we see Nicodemus meeting Jesus in the dark. Nicodemus was a educated man. He had all the tools he needed to be successful but he didn't understand that Jesus was and is the key to unlocking it all. That is what our jobs are. We are to point people to Jesus. We are to show the

youth that we lead that Jesus is the key to an abundant life. We don't have to have all the answers we just have to point them to the one who does and that's Jesus.

Blessings,

The Youth Team