



Unit 4, Lesson 13

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS

JOHN 3:1-21

THE STORY HOME

Nicodemus. He's an important ruler and follows all religious laws to the nth degree. But he sneaks through the night to talk alone with Jesus, who often appears to bend the law. Nicodemus calls Jesus, "teacher," and wants to know if He's truly from God. Jesus doesn't answer with a "Yes" or "No." He answers that nobody can see God unless he's born again. This idea messes with Nicodemus's mind because he thinks Jesus is suggesting people become babies again. Jesus means people must have a heart change—be new and different from the way they're living. And that comes only from heaven. People must be forgiven by God for their sins and become blameless before God, like a baby. Then Jesus teaches Nicodemus the best lesson, "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." Jesus recaps that God doesn't want people to focus only on religious rules thinking they can save themselves, but instead follow the true law, giving their mind and heart to the living God above for salvation and life forever in heaven.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
- What kinds of questions do you ask your schoolroom or Sunday school teacher?
- Rules are important and can keep us safe. Tell about a good rule people should obey.
- Share a time when you did something polite to someone because it was the way you'd like him or her to treat you.

TOGETHER HOME

Let's play school. Briefly review the John 3:1-21 passage with your child. Emphasize that Jesus was seen as a teacher. Talk about what teachers do and say. Then role play a classroom setting with your child as the teacher. You make up questions about this Bible story, as a review. Have fun and joke a little—people learn best when they laugh. Then reverse the teacher and student role to see what questions your child asks you. Answer one inaccurately to see if your child knows the story well enough to correct your answer.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Repeat our memory verse for this month, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets," (Matthew 7:12) each morning before school or work. Give hugs and kisses while saying to your child, "I'm hugging you because I'm doing to you what I'd like you to do to me." It's a reassuring send-off for the long day ahead.

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NT Unit 4, Lesson 13, Take-home