

BORN AGAIN: Puppets, Question books

Bible Passage: John 3:1-17

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Learning Objectives:

- Hear the Bible story of Nicodemus visiting Jesus to ask questions.
- Know that it is OK to ask Jesus questions.
- Jesus teaches that God loves each one of us.
- God sent his son Jesus to live with us, and to teach us through his life and death how we can be a part of God's family forever.

Preparation:

Materials -

- Two puppets
- Puppet skit (attached)
- "Book" cover & last page (one each per student) - created ahead of time
- Book Pages (colored paper)
- Coloring paper of Jesus and Nicodemus
- Markers, Pens
- Hole Punch, Yarn, Masking tape

Presentation

- Do you like to go to a friend's house to play? Who else do you visit – maybe Grandma's house? It's fun to visit family and friends.
- Have you ever gone to visit someone at nighttime when it was dark? What was that like? Was it hard to see things in the dark? Why did you go at nighttime?
- Our Bible story today is about a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus visited Jesus at nighttime because he didn't want anyone else to see him! Nicodemus wanted to ask Jesus some questions. Today we'll hear the Bible story with puppets.
- For younger children, story will be presented by teachers/assistants. Older students should take turns telling the story with puppets.

“Nic at Night - A story retold with puppets”

(Nicodemus appears, “walking” across stage, pausing to speak.)

Nicodemus: Hi, my name is Nicodemus. I’m on my way to visit Jesus. Have you heard of Jesus? Well, I want to find out more about Jesus. And what better way to find something out than by asking questions! Yes, I have questions. You see it seems like Jesus is somebody really special – he’s done miracles you know! Have you heard about that?

(Walks)

It sure is dark out tonight. I wanted to visit Jesus at night.

(Looks around.)

I don’t want anyone to see me. Oh, you guys are ok. It’s just that ... I’m a little afraid to ask my questions. Have you ever been afraid to ask a question?

(Walks)

Well, here I am.

(Nicodemus knocks. Jesus appears.)

Jesus: Hello Nicodemus!

(Nicodemus looks surprised!)

Nicodemus: Jesus, it seems that you have been sent by God to teach us.

Jesus: Nicodemus, no one can see the kingdom of God if they are not born again.

Nicodemus: What a strange thing to say! I am an old man; I can’t be a baby again!

Jesus: No, Nicodemus, I don’t mean that you have to become a baby again. You just need a new way of looking at things. You need to know how much God loves you! And not just you – God loves the whole world! (Faces audience) This is how much God loved the world: God sent his Son, his one and only Son. By believing and following him, everyone can be a part of God’s family and share in God’s eternal life.”

Nicodemus: Wow, that’s a big family! And God wants me to be a part of it – and all of you too! I still may have some questions now and then, but that’s okay, right? (Jesus nods) God will always love me – and that makes me very happy!

~ The End

Discussion

- Say: Let's hear/say those words Jesus taught us again: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
- Why did Nicodemus visit Jesus at night?
- Was Jesus angry with Nicodemus for asking a question? Talk about how people might feel afraid to ask questions about God – maybe others will think they're not very smart, or that they don't love God enough if they have questions. But Jesus wants us to be curious! When we wonder and think and ask and seek, then God can guide us.

Art Activity

- Introduce activity by saying, "Today you may make a book to take home. Nicodemus asked Jesus questions. We can think about questions we might have for Jesus."
- Gather the children around the table. Give them the coloring page. Show them the completed book sample. Say: Nicodemus wanted to learn more about God so he asked Jesus questions. Is there anything you want to ask God about?
- Record each question on a piece of colored paper. Allow them to draw pictures to go with their questions. They might like to have copies of their friend's questions too.
- At the end of gathering questions, put the books together with a front and back cover, coloring paper of Nicodemus, and question pages. Put some blank pages in so they can add questions in the future. Hole-punch and assemble the books with yarn. (If necessary, masking tape the end to help thread the yarn – allow older students to help in this process.)

Closing:

- We can have questions for God. Asking questions is OK. The important thing is to learn about Jesus and follow him.
- Ask children if they have anything they would like to pray for. Include these requests in your prayer.