

# Family Connections

February 12-26



John 3:16

## **Family Connections** - Unit 5: Feb 12 - Feb 26

The Bible tells us that Nicodemus was an important man. He was a leader. He was part of a group of men who studied the law (Pharisees). He was also part of a group that was almost like our Supreme Court is today (the Sanhedrin). They made decisions that people had to obey. Nicodemus had either seen the signs and miracles Jesus had performed or he had heard about them. Because of these signs, Nicodemus knew that Jesus was from God. He knew that no one could do those amazing things if God were not with him.

Jesus told Nicodemus that we have to be born again to be able to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus wondered, “How can someone be born after they are grown?” Jesus explained that he was not talking about an actual, physical birth. What had to happen to Nicodemus and what has to happen to us, in order to recognize God’s kingdom, is a spiritual birth. Jesus explained the spirit by comparing it to the wind. We cannot see the wind; we do not know where it comes from or where it is going, but we can see the effects it has in our world. That is how the Spirit of God works.

Even though Nicodemus was an important leader, he still did not understand. While Jesus did not give him an easy answer, he also did not leave him to figure it out on his own. Instead, he told Nicodemus, “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.” Jn3:16 (From “Life of Christ” newsletter, 06/08)

### Feb 12 - Beloved, let us love one another

- Our lessons focused on a “love letter”: 1Jn 4:7-8
- All children made Valentines for residents at Holden Nursing Home.

## Feb 19th - Feb 26th: Born Again

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to ask a question

- Do you ever have questions that you'd like to ask Jesus?
- Is it okay to ask questions about Jesus? Yes! It's always okay to ask about Jesus. You can ask your parents or other people who know and love Jesus.

Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again:

- What do we call being born of water and the Spirit? [baptism]

Jn 3:16: 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 God send Jesus to us? [God sent Jesus to us because he loves us so much that he wants us to share in His life.]
- When we hear that God loved the world, that means God loves everyone in the world –us, the people who have gone before us, the people who will come after us, and people all over the world.
- Do you think God knows who you are? God not only *knows* you, God *loves* you. You are very special to God.
- How does it feel to know that God loves each of us in a special way?"

Jesus said God's Holy Spirit was like the wind.

- Can we see the Holy Spirit? If we can't see it, how do we know if it exists? Even though we can't SEE the spirit, we can FEEL it and we can see what it does. We can see the effect it has on our lives and our world.
- What kinds of things do people do when they are following the Holy Spirit? When we are kind, thoughtful, patient, and joyful, people will see the goodness in us and they will be seeing the Holy Spirit at work.