

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
MARCH 12, 2017—THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
JESUS AND NICODEMUS



Nicodemus was a leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said “We all know that God is with you. No one could do the things you do if God wasn’t in on it.”

Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: God wants you to be a part of his kingdom, and to do that you have to be born again, born from God.

Nicodemus said “How can anyone be born again who has already been born and is grown up?”

Jesus said “Everyone is born with a body and with a spirit. This is about your SPIRIT. Your spirit must be reborn. You must find the spirit that God gave to you and let that spirit grow and show love.

Nicodemus asked, “How does this happen?”

Jesus said “Everyone who looks up to God, and trusts God, will receive a real life, eternal life. This is how much God loves the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to tell the world how bad it is. He came to help, to put the world right again.”

John 3:1-18 adapted from “The Message”

THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

JESUS EXPLAINS THINGS TO NICODEMUS

Nicodemus didn't understand. He wanted to find out more about Jesus and the things that he was doing. So he came to talk to Jesus one night. Nicodemus learned that God loves him and all people very much. He also learned that God wants us to be the best we can. Being "born of the spirit" means that we think about what God wants us to do and to be and that we want to be close to God. What does that mean to you? Here are some things to think about:

- What do you do every day that shows love? Are you kind to others? Do you share? Do you forgive people when they have hurt you?
- Who do you trust? Parents, family, friends? That's good! God says, "trust me!" God will show you the right way to go, the right decisions to make.

JOHN 3:16-17 MATCH UP

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|---|----------------|
| 1. For God so _____ the world, | A. Son |
| 2. that he gave his only _____. | B. believes |
| 3. So that whoever _____ in him | C. world |
| 4. may not perish, but have _____ life. | D. everlasting |
| 5. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the _____ | E. saved |
| 6. but in order that the world might be _____ through him. | F. loved |

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Why did Nicodemus come at night to see Jesus? Perhaps he might not have wanted other people to know he was talking to Jesus or he might have thought that this might be the only time that he could have a quiet conversation with Jesus. Either way, children can understand Nicodemus' situation. He might have been afraid that people would judge him poorly for being interested in talking to Jesus. He might have felt that he couldn't be honest in front of other people. Or perhaps he just wanted to wait until the crowds had gone home, so that he could get Jesus' full time and attention. Who can your children talk to? Talk with them about who they should trust. Where is a safe-place where they can be honest, ask questions and learn about themselves and God?

"For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God." Saint Teresa of Avila

Dinner Table Conversations:

Do you ever feel like you don't understand something that you see or hear? Who can you talk to about it?

Can you talk to Jesus? Do you feel that he listens?

What do you think about being "friends" with God? What does that mean to you?

Can you talk to Jesus like a friend—someone who always listens and always cares about you?