



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

Nicodemus – can a man be born twice?



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To explain that we can be saved only through Jesus Christ.



Lesson Takeaway:

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world so that we can have eternal life.



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Date:



Topic:

Nicodemus – can a man be born twice?



Bible References:

John 3:1 – 12



Who was Nicodemus?

In John 3:1 – 12, we understand that Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews.

But who were Pharisees? The Pharisees were members of a Jewish religious group that knew the laws of Moses. They focussed on external keeping of the laws and made sure everyone knew they were keeping the law (Mark 7:3 – 4; Matthew 12:2).

Nicodemus was a popular Pharisee during his time and people respected him very much.



What did Nicodemus do?

Nicodemus had been listening to Jesus and what he taught the people who came to listen to Him. Nicodemus had questions on his mind but didn't want to ask Jesus about these questions publicly, where people would hear him. He was a Pharisee and should have answers to any questions about the law!

So, one night, Nicodemus went to meet Jesus.

Jesus told Nicodemus, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by “unless one is born again.”



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What did Nicodemus do? - Continued

So, he asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” (John 3:4).

Jesus was surprised by Nicodemus’ questions. “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?” (John 3:10), Jesus asked.

Then Jesus explained that there is a difference between being born once and being born a second time.

The first birth happens naturally when one is born into an earthly family. Everyone alive has been born this way. The second birth is when one is born into the family of God. It is a new, spiritual birth that can only happen through Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16 -17).

Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus. After the death of Jesus, and when he was about to be buried, Nicodemus brought spices to put on the body of Jesus, like they used to do in those times (John 19:39 – 40).



What can we learn from Nicodemus?

Nicodemus was a teacher of the law but still had questions. He was not afraid to meet Jesus even if he had to see him at night.

When you have questions, don’t be afraid to ask people who have answers to your questions. God has given you people such as godly parents and teachers who can help you answer any questions that you might have.



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What can we learn from Nicodemus? - Continued

Nicodemus knew that Jesus had something special. Nicodemus was searching for eternal life, and this can only be found through Jesus.

If you need answers to why you are here on earth, or where you will go when you die, the answer is in Jesus. Read the bible to learn more about Jesus and what He came to do for you.

Nicodemus believed what Jesus told him and became a follower of Jesus. Today, we can become followers of Jesus when we also believe in what the bible says about Him.

"...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16-17).

Have you been born a second time?

To be born a second time, you have to:

- accept that you are a sinner,
- confess your sins to God,
- turn away from doing those sinful things and
- ask Jesus to give you a clean heart.

This is only possible because Jesus died on the cross, where he took the punishment of our sins so that we can be free from the power of sin and the punishment for sin.



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Memorize:

John 3:3 - Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God".



Scenario review:

You were in church, and your Sunday school teacher explained that we are all sinners and need to be saved from our sin. You are thinking: "but I am a good person. I don't steal, cheat, fight or use bad words. OK, I have done some of those bad things before, but it does not matter." You feel you don't need to be saved because you think you are a good person. Well, what do you think about what your Sunday School teacher explained? What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember: God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world so that we can have eternal life.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that I can be free from sin. Thank you for your great love for me. Please forgive me of my sin, give me a clean heart and be my Lord and Saviour from today. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!



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