



3rd - 5th

February 7-8, 2015

DATE

John 2:23-25, 3:1-21, John 3:16
Adventure Bible (pp. 1166-1168)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Nicodemus

LESSON TITLE

Jesus Gives Us New Life

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're dealing with pretty important subject matter today: believing in Jesus can give us new life! Kids may have questions about what this means. Be ready to have honest conversations about how we all mess up, so we need a rescuer to help us. That's Jesus's job—to rescue us from all the wrong in the world!

check-in/out

Encourage kids to tell their parents why they are wearing red decoder glasses.

large group heads up

Today, we're learning about how Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to have eternal life, he must be "born again." This was confusing for Nicodemus, and it might be confusing for kids too. Be ready to tell them what it was like when you decided to follow Jesus—which is when you became a part of (be "born" into) God's family!



connect time

Goal: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

FIGURE OUT THE RULE

*Split kids into small groups. You can have an adult be a part of each group or you can have one adult explain and lead all small groups.

- **Explain the game:**
 - **Choose** a leader.
 - He/she is *going to say*, "I'm going on a picnic and I'm going to bring _____." But **FIRST**, think of a rule:
 - They can say anything they want but **there must be a RULE for it**. Examples of rules are: items that begin with the letter B, round items, items that have two syllables, items that end in vowels, items that begin with the same letter as the player's first name, and anything else you can think of.
 - Once there's a rule, say, "I'm going on a picnic and I'm going to bring _____ (something that fits the rule)."
 - **Then go around the circle** and kids will ask, "Can I bring a _____ to the picnic?"
 - **The leader will answer "yes" or "no."**
 - The **goal** is to figure out the rule.
- **Do one sample round** (with an adult leading or as a whole room). Your rule can be: Items that begin with "S."
- Then **play** as many times as you can!
- At some point a couple minutes before Large Group begins, stop and **ask kids to share the best and/or worst parts of their week.**

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) learn about Nicodemus and Jesus' story and (2) understand how Jesus gives us new life if we accept his rescue!

Why: Jesus came to rescue us and give us new life. That's his purpose. He wants us all to be born into God's family!

Tip: Kids may have a lot of questions today. Be open to talking about what it means to be "born again."

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

1. Did anybody ask God a question that you feel like he answered? Share.
2. Does anybody have other questions or questions you didn't have answered? Share.
3. Who was Nicodemus?
4. Why did he visit Jesus? What did Jesus tell him?
5. What does it mean to be "born again"?
6. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus came to earth just so He could rescue you?

ERASING SIN

- Pass out a **blank sheet of paper**
- Give each kid a **red pen, red crayon or red marker**
- Have kids draw/write things they've done wrong on the paper.
- Give them each a **pair of decoder glasses** and have them put them on (they shouldn't be able to see the red writing anymore).
- Tell them that once we accept Jesus' rescue, this is how GOD sees us (as if we've done nothing wrong!). And we get to be part of his family.
- Ask kids one more time if there are any questions.

***Then pray, thanking Jesus that he came to rescue us and bring us into God's family.**

*If you have extra time, kids can use **markers** to decorate their glasses. You could also play the game from Connect Time again. Choose leaders who haven't gotten to make up a rule yet!*

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special notes

Today's lesson can be tough to understand, even for adults. Read John 2:23-25, 3:1-21, and John 3:16 together.

presenter tips

We can't provide a preview of the Chronicles of Narnia clip, but here's the clip of Nicodemus from the video "The Gospel of John." Preview it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbBmpaDBizA> (0:27-2:36 only).

script

**Click to play intro music*

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's good to have you here today. Everyone turn to someone and give them a great big high five! (Let kids respond.) Awesome! Now, the game you just played was pretty crazy. Raise your hand if you thought it was hard to figure out the rules? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, for some of us, it was, right? And even if we did figure out the rule, raise your hand if you ever thought it was hard to come up with an item? (Let kids raise hands.)

I bet it was hard! Let's test it. What's one of the rules you guys had? (Let 1 kid come up with a rule.) OK, let's try! What can we bring to that picnic? (Let kids yell out popcorn-style or raise hands, depending on what's best for your group. Once they start slowing down, stop them.)

Good job, but I think we can stop there! That's a game we just did for fun, but raise your hand if you ever have had a hard time following rules in real life (let kids respond). Now keep those hands raised if you've ever broken a rule (let kids respond; keep your own hand raised).

INTRO: NICODEMUS

Well, you can put your hands down. Today's story is all about a guy named Nicodemus who had a very important job. He was a Pharisee, which was a special teacher who knew all the laws of the Bible. Pharisees knew A LOT of information. And they really did their best to follow all the rules. They knew a lot *about* God, but they didn't really know God or have a relationship with him.

Nicodemus could tell Jesus was more than a great teacher. He believed Jesus came from God, and he wanted to know God. So Nicodemus met with Jesus late at night—when none of the other Pharisees could see him—and asked Jesus about it. Jesus told Nicodemus how to become part of God's Kingdom.



script continued

Let's watch a video about their conversation to find out what Jesus said to Nicodemus. As you watch, see if you can figure out what Jesus told Nicodemus.

Video: Nicodemus

So Jesus told Nicodemus how to be part of God's Kingdom. It actually confused Nicodemus a lot. What did Jesus say that Nicodemus (and all of us) have to do? (Let kids respond.) Yes, Jesus told Nicodemus he had to be born again. Let's talk about that for a second.

BEING BORN AGAIN

Hmmm...so what do you think it means to be born again by the Spirit? (Let a few kids answer.) Yes, you were all born into the world. Maybe you were born into the family you live with now or into a different family and now you've been adopted or are staying with another family. But we all were born once, right?

Unfortunately, we're all separated from God and his Kingdom because we've sinned. And God is perfect so he can't pretend like it's OK to hurt each other or ourselves or his world. It doesn't matter if we've broken a million rules...or just one. We still haven't been perfect like God. And even if we do one wrong thing and a hundred good things, the good things don't erase what we did wrong!

So Jesus wanted Nicodemus to stop thinking he could be good enough. That's impossible. Jesus actually came to take our punishment...so that we can be close to God and one day live with him forever! Remember, John 3:16 tells us this:

SLIDE: John 3:16: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

That's amazing! When we choose to believe that we've messed up and Jesus took our punishment, we are accepting his rescue. And as SOON as we accept it, we enter God's Kingdom! We are *born* into God's family!

GOD BRINGS US FREEDOM

What's really cool is that God loves to bring us new life. Following him can be hard sometimes, but one day we will live with him forever. Kind of like how a caterpillar goes into a cocoon and comes out a butterfly, God gives us new life when we choose to be born again into his family.

There's a pretty cool video clip that gives us a picture of this. It's from the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia" and it's about a man who was turned into stone. His friends find him frozen like a statue, kind of like when we were stuck in sin, separated from God. But then something happens to give him new life, just like Jesus gives to us! As you watch, picture yourself as the stone...and then getting set free.

Video: Chronicles of Narnia (2:20-3:56)



script continued

Wow, that lion turned Mr. Tumnus into a real person! He breathed new life into him, and made him a brand new creation. That's what Jesus can do. When we believe in him, we get new life.

PRAYER

Now, this can be tough to understand, so if you've still got questions, that's OK. We're going to spend a minute talking to God. Ask him your questions, and see if he answers! Maybe he gives you an idea or even shows you a picture. If you don't hear anything, that's OK. You can ask your small group leader. Remember, sometimes God speaks through other people too!

And if you want to be part of God's family today, just tell God you know you've done wrong things. Tell him you believe he sent Jesus to rescue you. Tell him you want to follow him!

(Lead kids, giving them time to ask God a question and wait for a response. Sit in silence, even if it's uncomfortable. Then wrap up, thanking God for sending Jesus so that we can be born into his family!)

WORSHIP

We're going to sing a few songs now, and worship God to thank him for sending Jesus to rescue us so that we can be part of his family.

Music Video: Wake

Music Video: You Are

(Then dismiss kids to small groups)



script continued

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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Figure out the Rule game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid:

One piece of paper

1 pair of decoder glasses:

<http://m.rainbowsymphonystore.com/decoderglasses.html>

1 red pen, marker, or crayon

Per group:

Adventure Bible (pp. 1166-1168)

Markers

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1166-1168)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Nicodemus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbBmpaDBizA>, 0:27-2:36 only)
3. Slide: John 3:16 “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”
4. Video: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2:20-3:56)
5. Video: Wake (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io2WQQ-3aVs>)
6. Video: You Are (should be on Vimeo in time for this lesson)

connect questions

Tell me about Nicodemus.

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts - Separate doc.