



Nic at Night

John 3

Review

- Who can tell the Christmas story from last week?
- Who were you able to tell the story to this past week?
- How might you celebrate Christmas differently now that we discovered new things about it?

Hook Question

Who is someone that you could trust with something that would be really hard to tell?

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

List out the major events in today's story. Come up with an action to help remember the 1st event. Do the same with the 2nd. Go back to the 1st & then add the 2nd event and its action. Continue until the story is retold.

Introduction

Little is known about Jesus' childhood. Luke 2:52 says that he grew in wisdom, physically, and in his relationship with God and people. He became a carpenter like his earthly father, Joseph and at the age of 30, he began his ministry. Just before the beginning of our story, a prophet, or a person who speaks for God, whose name was John, baptized him. Jesus has called the first few men to come and follow him. Jesus has also performed many miracles and the religious leaders are beginning to get jealous of Jesus. That is where we will begin our Bible story for today:

One night there was a religious leader named Nicodemus who came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," Nicodemus said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miracles are evidence that God is with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

"How can an old man go back into his mother and be born again?" exclaimed Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, "I promise you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' Take the wind. It blows wherever it wants. You can hear it but you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. You also can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

"How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- What do you think was going on in Nicodemus' heart and mind in this story?
- What do you think are the most important words in the story?
- How are you just like Nicodemus?
- What did you learn about God?
- When I hear God saying that (the last paragraph), I feel...

Story Continued...

Jesus answered him: For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge, but to save the world through those that believe in him. But those who do not believe in God's one and only Son will be judged. It's based on the fact that God's sent a light into the world, but the people showed, through their evil actions, that they loved the darkness more than the light. They are afraid their sins will be exposed. But, you come to the light when you do what is right. Then others can see that they are doing what God wants."

Closing Blessing

Read John 3:16

Pray Lord, thank you for your love and for eternal life for all of us who have chosen to follow Jesus. Thank you that one day we will see You face to face. Bless us with your strength to keep running the race that is ahead of us.