



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



The Teaching of Jesus

It doesn't make sense!

Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus

John 3:1-15

Teaching Aim

To show that we are all sinners and need to ask Jesus to forgive us.

Setting the Scene

Are there times when you don't understand some of the work you are doing at school? What do you do? The sensible thing to do is to ask your teacher for help. In today's lesson, a man was puzzled about what he had heard so he went to the One who would have the answers - Jesus.

Seeking

Read John 3:1-2. What do we know about Nicodemus?

- He was a Pharisee. Pharisees were very religious people who obeyed the first five books of the Old Testament in every detail.
- He was a member of the High Court of the Jews - the Sanhedrin.
- He must have been a wealthy man for, when Jesus died, he brought a large amount of myrrh and aloes (John 19:39).

Nicodemus would be a good man and highly respected in the community. In spite of this, he knew that something was missing in his life. Perhaps he had heard about or even seen Jesus performing miracles so he decided to go and ask Him a few questions.

Why do you think he went by night? Was he a coward? Possibly he didn't want others to know that he was with Jesus in case they would stir up trouble. The main reason may have been that he wanted to spend time alone with Jesus away from the crowds that Jesus was involved with during the day time.

How did he address Jesus? - with respect and acknowledged that His miracles proved that He was a teacher come from God.

Puzzled

Read John 3:3-7. Before Nicodemus could say anything more, Jesus interrupted with a personal message for him. What was the message? Nicodemus didn't know what Jesus was talking about. What question did he ask? He was thinking of physical birth but Jesus was thinking of spiritual birth. Jesus repeated the important message that Nicodemus needed to grasp hold of. Nicodemus must have felt frustrated and stupid at not being able to understand what Jesus was saying but he didn't give up so he must have been in earnest. Jesus explained to him that we are all born in sin

and need to be born again spiritually by having our sins forgiven and living to please God.

Instructed

Read John 3: 8-15. There are many who pretend not to understand the need to be born again because they don't want to be changed. Jesus knows whether or not we are sincere and, if we are, He will never turn us away. Nicodemus hadn't enough knowledge to understand what Jesus meant by "the Spirit" so Jesus explained it in simple terms. He used an example from everyday life - the wind. We can't understand how it blows but we can see what it does; it is the same with the Spirit, we might not know how it works but we can see its effects in lives that have been changed. Nicodemus still did not understand but he wanted to have a fuller explanation. Jesus pointed out that Nicodemus should have known these things and should have known that what Jesus was telling him was in the Old Testament Scriptures. It is not enough to know the Scriptures, we need to know Jesus as our Saviour and this is what is meant by the new birth. Have you been born again?

Summing up

Nicodemus was a well educated and important man in his community but he did not know Jesus as his Saviour. He was worried and went to talk to Jesus Who explained to him that he must have his sins forgiven. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins? Don't keep putting it off!

Resources

Memory Verse

... 'You must be born again.' John 3:7b

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet “Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus - 1”.
- Over 8s Activity Sheet “Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus- 2”.

Prayer Points

Thank God that:

- Jesus died so that we can be born again.
- We have CE and Sunday School teachers to explain God's Word to us.

Pray for:

- Those who are preaching the good news.
- Those who want to find out more about how to be saved.

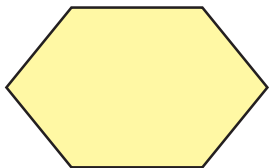
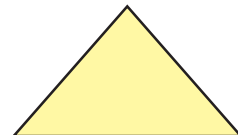
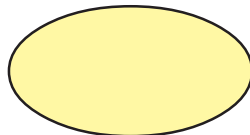
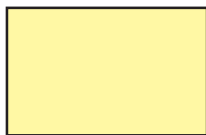
Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus

Colour in T if true or F if false.

1. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. T F
2. Nicodemus came to Jesus at noon. T F
3. Nicodemus was a good man. T F
4. We have all sinned and need forgiveness. T F
5. We will go to heaven if we go to CE and church every week. T F
6. To receive forgiveness we must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. T F

Memory Verse

Cut out the bottom shapes and paste them in the shaded ones to find the memory verse.



Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus

Starting at the letter **Y** and moving clockwise, write down every following third letter until all the letters or spaces are used up. You will find the message Jesus gave to Nicodemus. Fill in the answer below to see what Jesus told Nicodemus.

A	E	Space	G	Space	M
U	Memory Verse				A
B					B
Space					U
O					I
Space					O
N					Y

By using the code below, find out how Nicodemus was described in John Chapter 3.

▮ = A, ▮ = E, ▮ = F, ▮ = I, ▮ = H,
 ☺ = J, ☹ = L, ▮ = O, ▮ = P, ☸ = R,
 ▮ = S, ★ = T, † = U, ♣ = W

Questions

Nicodemus came to Jesus and asked how he could see the kingdom of God.

Tick the answer that Jesus gave.

- You must go to church every week.
- You must give money into the church.
- You must repent of your sins and ask for forgiveness.

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again.

Tick the question that Nicodemus then asked Jesus.

- Why do I need to be born again?
- How can I be born again?
- Is this the only way?

Who were the Pharisees?

- Roman soldiers.
- Very religious people who did good deeds and followed God's law.
- Rich Jewish people.
