



## Nicodemus

(based on John 3:1-21)

Nicodemus (nih-ko-DEE-muhs) was a religious teacher. One night when it was very late, Nicodemus came to see Jesus. He wanted to ask Jesus some questions.

“Teacher,” Nicodemus said. “We know that God has sent you. No one could do the amazing things you have done unless God is with them.”

Jesus could see that Nicodemus wanted to learn more about God. Jesus didn’t waste any time. He listened to Nicodemus and then he said, “Nicodemus you have lots of questions. If you want to understand God’s ways you must be born again.”

Nicodemus was confused, “How can I go back and be born again?” he asked.

“When God’s Spirit comes, you will start to change deep down inside,” explained Jesus. “You will feel like a whole new person. It’s like you are born all over again.”

Nicodemus still didn’t understand. “How can this happen?” he asked.

“God’s Spirit is like the wind,” replied Jesus. “You can’t see the wind, but you can see what the wind does. Just like you can’t see the Spirit, but you can see what the Spirit does. The wind blows where it wants to blow. It’s the same with the Spirit.

“Wow!” exclaimed Nicodemus. “God’s Spirit will change me into a brand new person!”

“There’s another thing I have to tell you,” said Jesus. “God loved the world so much that God sent me. I’ve come to tell everyone about God’s love and help them know how to live with each other.”

“That’s incredible!” exclaimed Nicodemus.

‘It sure is!’ agreed Jesus.

Nicodemus and Jesus talked late into the night. Nicodemus had lots of questions to ask. And Jesus enjoyed listening to him and talking about God and God’s love!



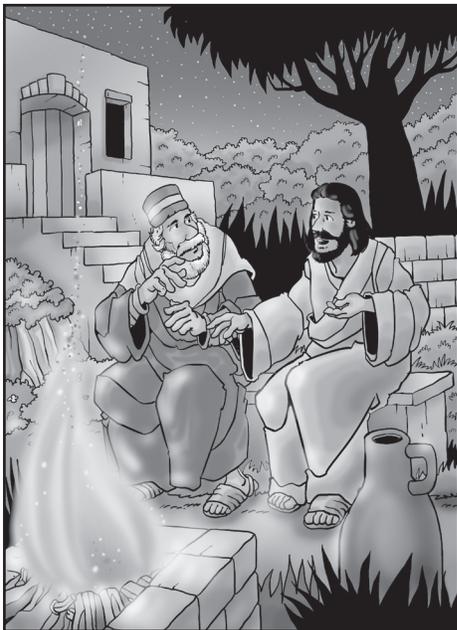
## Nicodemus

(based on John 3:1–21)

Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

### Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- How do you think it felt to Nicodemus to be able to start his life over again?
- Pick something to make from play dough. Give 30 seconds to make it. Repeat the activity, this time allowing 2 minutes. Discuss how having more time to have your project be right is like Christ's offer for Nicodemus to be born again.



### Responding to God's Grace

- Nicodemus went to Jesus with lots of questions. Are there two or three faith questions your family would like to take to the pastor?
- Play 20 questions. Pick an object for someone to guess. The guesser asks questions like, "Is it in the room with us?" or "Is it bigger than an elephant?" Keep track of the questions and guesses, and if the total of those gets to 20 before the answer is discovered, the game is over. Let others have a turn to choose objects and ask questions.
- Talk about all of the things your family recycles. Talk about why we recycle: our love of creation and our way of helping to take care of the world God gave us. Talk about what recycled materials may become: a milk jug becomes a park bench; newspapers become magazines or a book; glass bottles become insulation. While people are not recycled, all of us can become new creatures in Jesus Christ.

### Celebrating in Gratitude

- Tell your children about a time you experienced an "aha moment" and one of your faith questions was answered. Celebrate with your children that Christ is patient with our questions, as he was with Nicodemus.
- Read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein together. Celebrate how people in your family have made personal changes to serve the needs of the family.
- Pray:

*God, thank you for giving us inquisitive minds, and for putting people in our lives to help us learn. Help us to live with others in love. Amen.*