



# THE STORY @ HOME



**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2021-2022)

**Lesson #4-19**  
John 3:1-21

## LAST WEEK

Jesus chases the moneychangers out of the temple, and makes a prophecy about his own resurrection (John 2:13-25).

## THIS WEEK

A Pharisee, Nicodemus, comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness, asking questions and seeking understanding. As Jesus explains his ministry, the Pharisee becomes more confused (John 3:1-21).

## STORY SUMMARY

### Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Nicodemus was a educated man, yet he had many questions about who Jesus was and the news that Jesus had to share. His nighttime visit is a sign of this confusion; he was literally and figuratively “in the dark.” Nicodemus came looking for more proof of who Jesus really was as well as what that meant for him and other believers. Yet Jesus’ answers were unclear. After all the confusion Nicodemus experiences, he was finally silent when he hears Jesus’ words of promise: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” (John 3:16)

### THE POINT

Even those who have difficulty with Jesus’ message have a place in God’s story.

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at a well. The ensuing conversation breaks several taboos, and brings the woman and her village to believe in Jesus (John 4:1-42).

## PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

Because the good news shared with Nicodemus is life changing, we repeat it to one another often, both in words and in how we care for one another. Students already understand the importance of relationships among their families and friends. Use the Love Mailboxes to continue looking for ways to care for and support one another.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *Images of God*

God is so much more than our human minds can comprehend. Because our language is inadequate to fully convey who God is, we turn to metaphors that describe single components of God. Using a wide variety of images, such as those found in Scripture, helps us to understand more completely the fullness of God.

### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✝ In what way does this text speak to our theme of an Invitation to Abundant Life?
- ✝ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✝ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read John 3:1-21**

Nicodemus visits Jesus. Write the first notes for your Love Mailbox. Memorize John 3:16 and say it together as a family.

#### **Monday—Read John 3:22-30**

John the Baptist preaches about Jesus. Pretend you are John the Baptist, telling about Jesus. What would you say?

#### **Tuesday—Read John 3:31-36**

John continues to preach about Jesus. Share stories of where and when you have seen Jesus active in your life or the lives of others.

#### **Wednesday—Read Luke 3:19-20**

John is put in prison. Sometimes speaking the truth can get you in trouble. Has this ever happened to you?

#### **Thursday—Read Matthew 11:2-6**

John sends messengers to Jesus from prison. Act out one of the healings mentioned in verse 5.

#### **Friday—Read Matthew 11:7-15**

Jesus compares John to Elijah. Talk about a good role model of the faith.

#### **Saturday—Read Matthew 11:16-19**

Jesus compares himself to John. What are some ways you might be tempted to act foolishly this week? How can you act with wisdom instead?