

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Jesus Met Nicodemus

*John 3:1-21*

- **Set the scene:** Dim the lights in the room to simulate nighttime. Speak softly and hold a submissive posture as Nicodemus may have done.
- **Use dramatic dialogue:** Stand in one spot when telling Jesus' words. Then turn and face that spot as you speak Nicodemus' words.

Jesus had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. One night, a religious man came to see Jesus. The man's name was Nicodemus (NIK uh DEE muhs). Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He studied and taught God's law, and he tried very hard to obey the law. Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.

**“Rabbi (RAB igh),” he said, “we know that You have come from God. You are a teacher, and no one could do the miracles You do unless God is with him.”**

Nicodemus had that right. Jesus said, **“I tell you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

Now Nicodemus was confused. He thought that keeping all God's laws was how a person got into heaven. Besides, what Jesus said didn't make any sense! **“How can anyone be born when he is old?”** Nicodemus asked.

Jesus said, **“A man cannot enter God's kingdom unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** When a baby is born, he gets physical life from his parents. Physical life doesn't last forever. But the Spirit gives people spiritual life so they can live with God forever.

Jesus said, **“Don't be surprised I told you that you must be born again.”**

Nicodemus still didn't understand. **“How is this possible?”** he asked.

Jesus replied, “We talk about what we know, and we tell others about what we have seen. But you don't believe what I'm telling you! When you don't believe what I say about

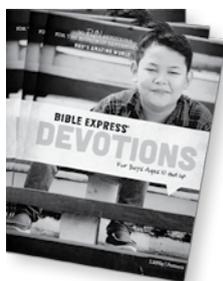
things I've seen on earth, how will you believe what I say about the things I've seen in heaven?

**“No one has ever gone up into heaven, except the Son of Man. He came down from heaven. Do you remember how Moses raised up the bronze snake in the wilderness? Everyone who looked at it was healed. Like that, the Son of Man will be raised up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”**

Then Jesus told Nicodemus about God's great plan. Jesus said, **“God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.**

“God didn't send His Son to declare the world guilty, but to save the world. Anyone who believes in Him is found not guilty, but anyone who does not believe in Him is guilty already.”

*Christ Connection: Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Jesus told Nicodemus about God's plan. Later, Jesus promised to give believers—those who have been born again—the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# What Is Different?

DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Look at the pictures. Circle the six differences in the second picture.



**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**JESUS MET NICODEMUS**

- Nicodemus went to visit Jesus.
- Nicodemus wanted to know how to have life forever with God.
- Jesus told Nicodemus about God's plan.
- Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant.

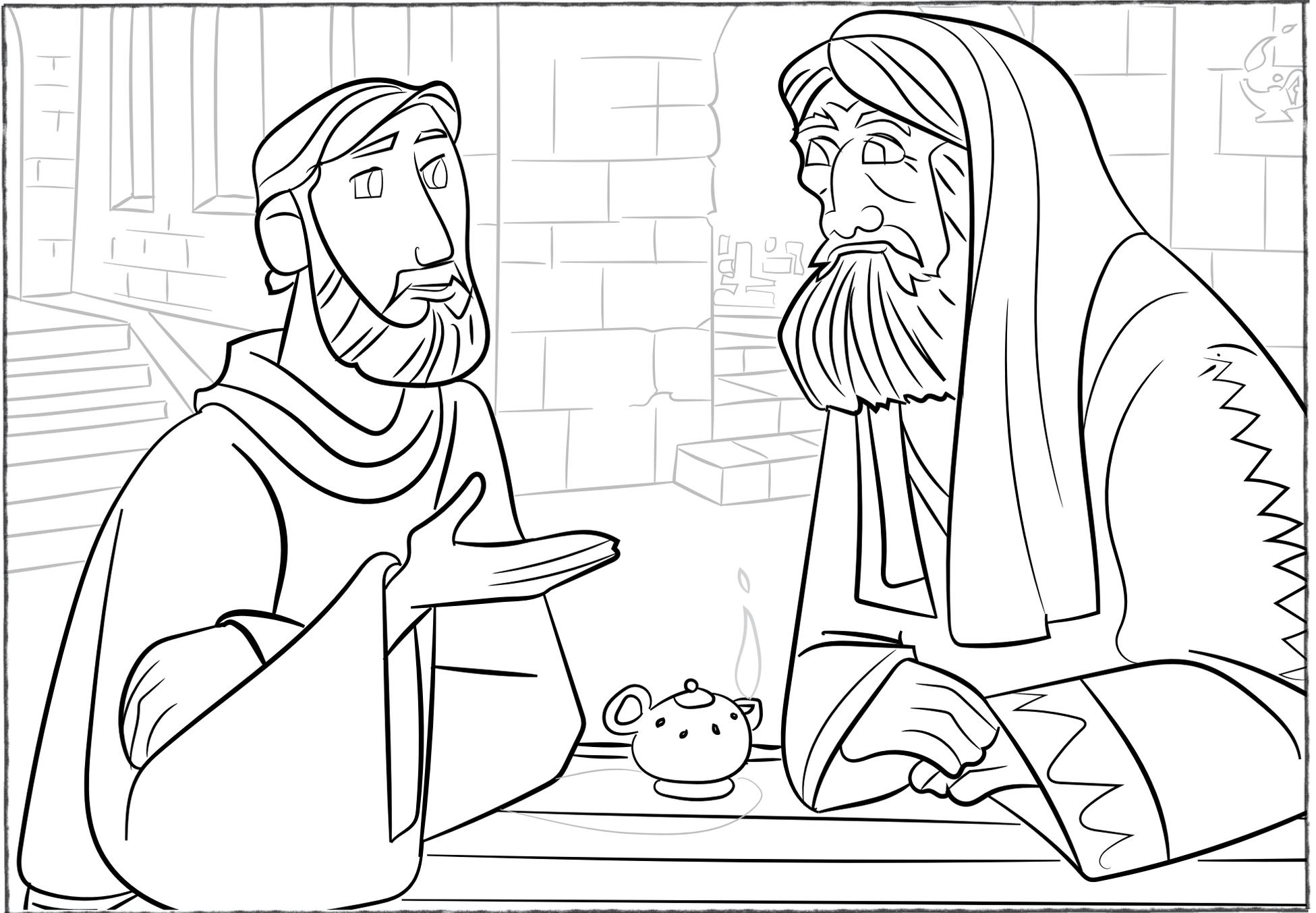
**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Can a person obey all God's laws?
- How do we get life forever with God?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Show a child her baby pictures. Recount her birth story or how she became part of your family.
- Give children a gift they did nothing to earn. Remind children that salvation is a gift we do nothing to earn. God gives this gift because of His great love.

*Preschool Activity Pages*  
Unit 21, Session 1



# The Way to Jesus

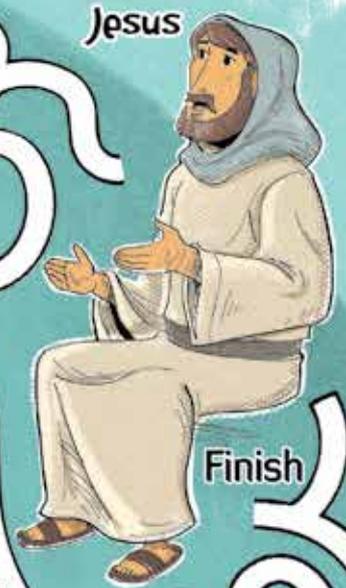
Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night. Complete the maze to help Nicodemus get to Jesus.



Nicodemus

Start

ONE WAY ↗



Jesus

Finish

Use the words below to fill in the missing words of John 14:6. Tip: Not all of the words will be used.

way, life, Father, Son, truth, Messiah, Me, heaven

Jesus told him, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
the ○ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ , and the ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

No one comes to the \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_  
except through \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ ."

Unscramble the circled letters above to complete this sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ life

is a gift that comes only from God.

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.