



One night a man named Nicodemus came to see Jesus. Nicodemus was a teacher and a church leader. He knew much of what God's Word says. Nicodemus had heard about Jesus' miracles and believed that Jesus was a teacher sent by God. Nicodemus wanted to learn more about him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "If someone wants to be God's child and live with him forever, that person must be born again."

"How can someone who has already grown up be born again?" asked Nicodemus. "A person can't become a baby again and be born a second time!"

Jesus answered, "All people are born sinful. They cannot become God's children and get to heaven by themselves. But God the Holy Spirit changes people and makes them God's children. He uses God's Word and Baptism to put faith in people's hearts to believe in Jesus, the Savior from sin." That is what Jesus meant when he told Nicodemus that people must be "born again" to become God's children and live with him forever.

Then Jesus explained how the work of the Holy Spirit is like the wind. The wind does its work, even though you cannot see it. You hear the wind, but you can't see where it is coming from or where it is going. God the Holy Spirit does his work. He puts faith into people's hearts. He changes them from people who love sin into people who love God. But no one can see the Holy Spirit working, just as no one can see the wind.

Jesus also told Nicodemus the wonderful news of God's great love for all people and his plan to save all people. Jesus said, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish [be punished in hell] but have eternal life."

The Bible tells us later that God the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of Nicodemus. Then Nicodemus believed in Jesus, his Savior from sin. Nicodemus showed love to Jesus by helping to bury his body after he died on the cross.



When Nicodemus came to learn from Jesus one night, Jesus explained that he came to take away sins and give people life in heaven. We are thankful that the Holy Spirit has

brought us to saving faith in the Savior.

- 1.** Dim the lights and read the Bible story in the dark (to imitate how Nicodemus came to Jesus at night). What important things did Jesus teach Nicodemus?
- 2.** Nicodemus came to Jesus one night to learn more about him. If you were able to visit Jesus in person one night, what would you want to ask him or learn about him? Take turns sharing your questions. Then thank God for giving you his Word, the source of all you need to know about your Savior and the forgiveness and eternal life he gives!

## Pray Together

Thank you, God the Father, for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Thank you, God the Son, for taking away our sins. Thank you, God the Holy Spirit, for bringing us to faith in Jesus, our Savior. Amen.



**John 3:16**