

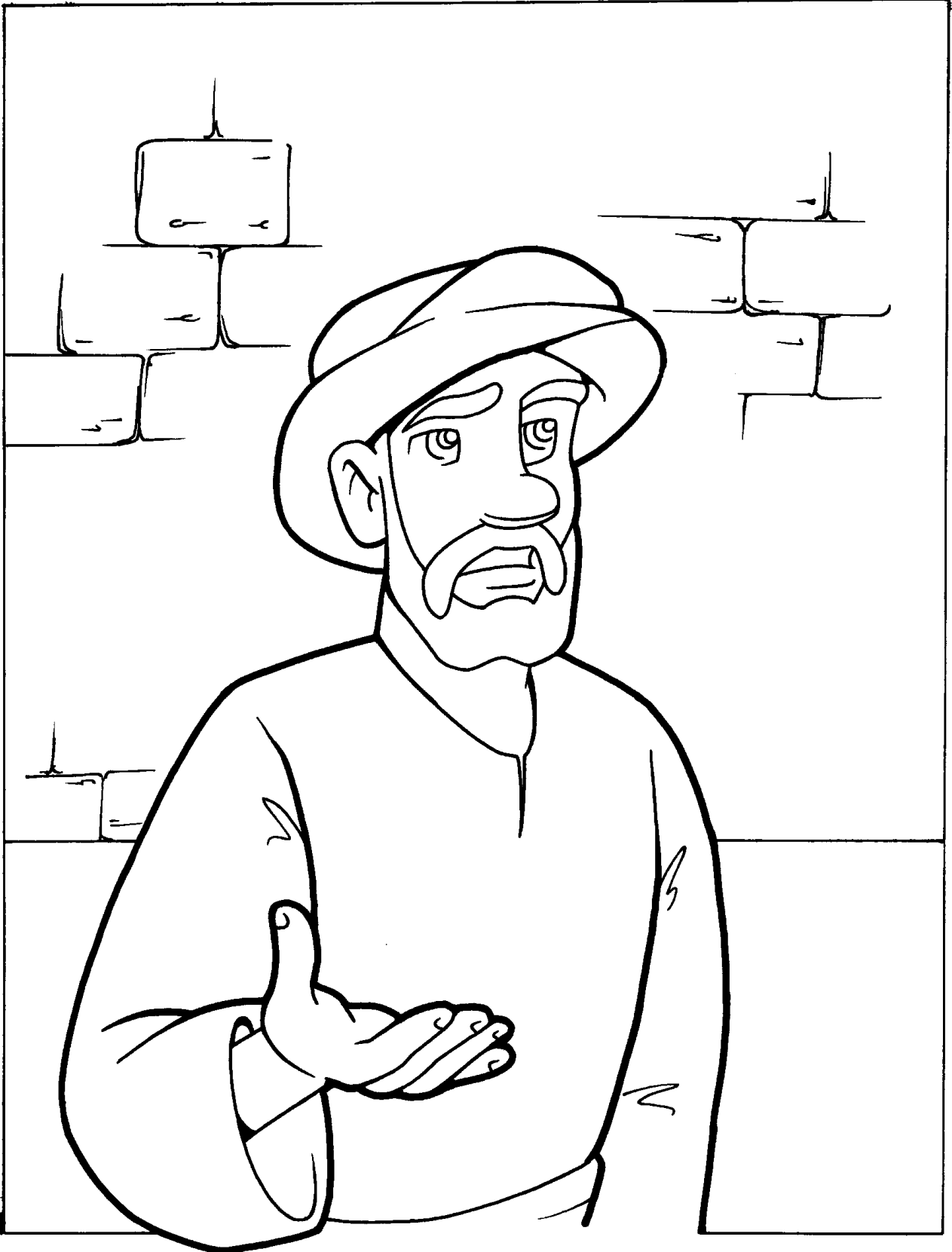
**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 178: JESUS & NICODEMUS**  
**JOHN 3:1-21**

There was a man named Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. One night he came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do these miraculous signs that you do unless they have God's help." Jesus answered, "I assure you, everyone must be born again. Anyone who is not born again cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said, "How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's stomach and be born a second time?" Jesus answered, "Believe me when I say that everyone must be born from water and the Spirit. Anyone who is not born from water and the Spirit cannot enter into God's kingdom. Things born from flesh are flesh (which means that the only life people get from their human parents is physical life). But things born from the Spirit are Spirit (which means the new life that the Spirit gives a person is spiritual). Don't be surprised that I told you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants to. You hear it, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born from the Spirit." Nicodemus asked, "How is all this possible?" Jesus said, "You are an important teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these things? The truth is, we talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you people don't accept what we tell you. I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So I'm sure you will not believe me if I tell you about heavenly things! The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the one who came down from heaven--the Son of Man. "Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. He must be lifted up too. Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life." Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world. He did not send him to judge the world as guilty, but to save the world through him. People who believe in God's Son are not judged as guilty. But people who do not believe are already judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. They are judged by this fact: The light has come into the world. But they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things. Everyone who does evil things hates the light. They will not come to the light, because the light will show all the bad things they have done. But anyone who follows the

true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that whatever they have done was done through God.

## 178. JESUS & NICODEMUS

(JOHN 3:1-21)



"Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he go back into his mother's stomach, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into God's kingdom." **JOHN 3:4-5**

# 178. JESUS & NICODEMUS

JOHN 3:1-21

## MEMORY VERSE:

*"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* JOHN 3:17

## Review Questions

### True or False

1. Nicodemus was an important Jewish leader, a Pharisee.
2. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and told Him, "Teacher, we know that you are from Egypt."
3. Jesus answered and said, "I tell you that unless a man is born again, he cannot see God's kingdom."
4. The things that are born from flesh are flesh, and the things that are born from the Spirit are spirit.
5. Nicodemus answered and said, "I already understand all of this."

### Questions

1. Why did God send His Son into the world? Was it to judge the world as guilty?
2. What happens to people when they believe in God's Son?
3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he must do to see God's kingdom?
4. Did Nicodemus understand what Jesus was telling him?
5. Who is the only one that has ever gone up to heaven?
6. Do people who do not want to believe in Jesus like the light, or the truth? Do they want the darkness instead? Why?

## Lesson 178 Activity

### The "What and How" Game

Ask the children several "what" and "how" questions. When asking them the "what" questions, allow them to answer verbally. When asking them the "how" questions, have them act out the activity.

For example:

What do you do to your teeth in the morning? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime brushing their teeth.)

What do you do with a glass of milk? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime drinking from a glass.)

What do you do when you want light in a dark room? (what question: answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children pantomime turning on a light or light switch.)

What do you do when you have an itch on your nose? (what question; answer verbally)

How? (how question; have the children act out scratching their nose)

What do you need to do to be saved? (what question; answer verbally)

How? (the children will have trouble answering some of this by acting out, some will understand and act out a prayer)

Reinforce the importance of not only knowing what to do when it comes to understanding the "new birth" but also how it is important. Jesus gives us the answers to all of the "how" questions. Nicodemus wasn't being silly when he asked if a man could become a baby again. He was really trying to understand. It probably sounded like a marvelous thing to start all over again, but how could it be done? Nicodemus was trying to understand what Jesus was saying; [we all need a new, spiritual birth](#). Jesus answered Nicodemus' "how" question in a simple way. He told him that he was born of the flesh in a physical way, a physical birth, but his spirit was not born yet. His spirit needed to be brought to life by being born in the Spirit of God. Our spirit is brought to life when we ask Jesus to come into our lives and forgive us our sins. At that time the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and gives us spiritual life; we are born again spiritually. The Holy Spirit comes in and gives new life! The Holy Spirit lives the life of Christ through us; He transforms us into new creatures and we are born again. We may not see this new birth or watch it as it happens but we will be able to see the effects of the Spirit in our lives. We'll know we are born again by the changes the Holy Spirit makes in us. We don't see the wind visibly, but we do see its effect.

Tell the children that if you had a present for each one of them, and you held it out to them and offered it to them, that they still have to accept the present before it is theirs. If each child refused to take the gift offered to them, they would not be the recipients of the gift. If we do not take the gift of salvation that the Lord offers to us, we do not become the recipients of His gift of mercy and grace.

Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come and live inside of you and make your spirit alive through His Holy Spirit? You can do that anytime, even right now. This is the most important thing you could ever do in your life. Will you choose to be born again today?

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanks to the Lord for His gift of His Son, Jesus, and the new life we can have through the Holy Spirit.

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so. If children respond, make sure to tell their parents or other person they are with so that they can continue to help build their faith.