

CITY SG – Feb 27th/28th

Bible Story: In the Nic of Time (Jesus teaches Nicodemus) • *John 3:1-21 (Supporting: John 7:49-51; 19:38-40)*

Bottom Line: When I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever.

Memory Verse: "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see." *Hebrews 11:1, NIV*

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can't see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for sending us Jesus to show us His love. Pray the kids will ask questions to learn more about Jesus. Pray the kids will believe in and accept Jesus.

1st-2nd Grade Activity:

Nic at Night (review the Bible story)

What You Need: "Finger Puppets", scissors, crayons or markers, tape, Bible

What You Do:

Give each child a set of finger puppets and invite kids to color them. Guide kids to cut them out, providing hand-over-hand assistance as needed. When they finish, help them tape the tabs together, completing the puppets. Open your Bible to John 3 and read the paraphrase of the Bible story below, guiding the kids to make their puppets dramatize the story as you read.

One night, **Nicodemus** snuck away to see **Jesus**. **Nicodemus** had heard about the miracles **Jesus** had done, and he had questions about who Jesus was. **Jesus** told Nicodemus, "No one can see the kingdom of heaven unless they are born again." "How can this be?" **Nicodemus** asked. He didn't understand what Jesus was saying. Then **Jesus** said, "Everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever." **Jesus** went on to say to **Nicodemus**: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

3rd Grade Activity:

Forever and Ever (Review the Story)

What You Need: Small whiteboard, dry erase markers, and erasers.

What You Do:

Have kids sit together in a group. Choose one person to be the artist. Everyone else will be the guesser. Ask the question, "If you could live forever, but only eat one thing, what would you eat?" Have the artist whisper his or her answer in your ear. Then let the artist start to draw the food item they chose while the rest of the group tries to guess the answer. Let a couple more people draw their answers

while everyone else guesses. Then ask the question, “If you could live forever, but only watch one movie, which movie would you watch?” Let a few kids draw their answers for everyone to guess.

Talk about the story you heard in Large Group. Ask a few comprehension questions:

- “Who was Nicodemus?”
- “What kind of question did Nicodemus ask Jesus?”
- “What are some ways the Pharisees thought you could live forever?”
- “What did Jesus say was the only way to really live forever?”

Both Activities:

What You Say:

“When Jesus said, ‘Everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever,’ He was talking about Himself! Jesus was saying that **[Apply] when we believe who He is, we’ll live with God forever.**

“I’m not sure if Nicodemus understood everything Jesus said on the night he met with Jesus, but I do think Jesus gave him a lot to think about. I wonder if, after Jesus died, Nicodemus remembered Jesus’ words: ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life,’ (*John 3:16 NIV*).

ABC Prayer (Salvation message)

What You Need: ABC cards

What You Say: “Nicodemus had seen the truth—that God sent His one and only Son, and anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. Another way to say it is this—God loved, so God gave. When we believe, then we receive. So God loved us and gave his son to die for our sins. When we believe that Jesus died for us, we can receive God’s gift and live with him forever. But HOW do we receive that gift?? Well, it’s as easy as ABC. We call it the ABC prayer. “

- There are 3 parts to the ABC prayer. (Show the ABC cards from the bin)
 - A- Admit** – We tell God that we know that we have sinned (done things we shouldn’t have done)
 - B-Believe** Tell God that we believe that he sent his son Jesus to die for our sins
 - C- Choose** Tell God that we Choose to become a member of his family and to follow him forever
- God makes it so easy for us to live with him forever! When we tell God these things, we will get to live with him forever!

SAY,” If you have never prayed the ABC prayer and are ready to say it, repeat after me in your head:

“Dear God....I admit that I have sinned...I believe that you sent your son Jesus to die for my sins....I choose to follow you and become a member of your family...I love you, God.....Amen”

Discussion: God sent Jesus to die and live again because God loves everyone. Those of us who believe in Jesus have told God we believe Jesus is the savior God promised to send. We have asked God to make us members of his family. And then we get to live with God forever in Heaven!

“It’s okay if you don’t understand all of this yet. But if you have any questions, you can talk with your parents, me, or any of the other leaders. We’ll be very happy to talk with you and help you understand as much as you can! Let’s pray.

When You Believe (application activity)

What You Need: “Letter to Jesus” (one per kid), crayons or markers

What You Do:

Give every child a “Letter to Jesus” page and encourage them to write or draw a question that they have for Jesus. It could be a question about Who Jesus is, how to be saved, or any other question. If a child can’t think of a question, encourage him to draw a picture of today’s Bible story.

What You Say:

“Nicodemus went to Jesus late one night because he had questions for Him. It’s okay to ask Jesus questions. It’s even okay to ask Jesus questions about who He is. Jesus may not answer your question right away, but at some point He will answer your question through something you read in the Bible, through something that someone who loves Him says about Him, or through an experience you have.

“One question Nicodemus had for Jesus was how to be born again. Being born again is one way to say that we will live with God forever. Jesus told Nicodemus that ‘Everyone who believes in him can live with God forever.’ (John 3:15, NIV) So, **[Impress] when I believe who Jesus is, I’ll live with God forever.**

“Isn’t that amazing? **[Apply] When we choose to believe in Jesus, we will live forever with Him.** ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ (John 3:16, NIV) So, remember: **[Impress] When I believe who Jesus is, I’ll live with God forever.**”

Pray

What You Need: No supplies

What You Do:

Guide the kids to gather around you.

What You Say:

“Jesus told Nicodemus, ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ (John 3:16 NIV)

[Apply] “When you or I believe in our hearts that Jesus is who He said He was, and when we ask Him to forgive us for our sins, He will! Then we will receive the gift of eternal life. We will be in heaven, with God, forever!

“It’s okay if you don’t understand all of this yet. But if you have any questions, you can talk with your parents, me, or any of the other leaders. We’ll be very happy to talk with you and help you understand as much as you can! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH that living forever with You isn’t about what we do. Living forever with You is about what *You* did for us. It’s about believing that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Thank You, Lord, that when we truly believe in Jesus we can have life forever with You. We love You SO much, Lord. Father, if there is someone here today who is ready to believe in You, please help them make that choice. Help them put their trust in You and follow You no matter what. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.