

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 3

JESUS AND NICODEMUS

Scripture: John 3:1-21, Number 21:4-9

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Snake on a pole, 2 bucket- 1 water, 1 mud, water bottle, baking soda, vinegar, balloon with caterpillar and butterfly drawn on

Play a Game:

Today we're going to start with a game, because it has to do with our story. Can anyone tell me what book we're studying? (John). Well, in today's story, Jesus refers back to a different story in the OT- the time before Jesus walked the earth. There was a time when the Israelites (God's chosen people) sinned against God. They were grumbling against him and speaking against him and Moses- who was their leader at the time. Because of their sin, God sent snakes among them. But the people cried out to God to be saved and he had Moses build a pole with a snake on it. If anyone looked to the snake, they lived.

So we're going to play freeze tag. There will be three snakes that are "it" and they are chasing the others. If you get tagged, you must freeze. You get unfrozen when the Pole Person brings you the snake on the pole (close enough for them to touch it). Play for a time limit or until all are frozen. Then head back inside.

Explain:

During this discussion, Jesus was talking to a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which means he was a teacher in Jewish Law, so he understood the Word of God very well. He went to Jesus in the night because many of the Pharisees didn't like Jesus or his teachings, but Nicodemus wanted to know more.

While he was there, Jesus told him very important things, but he just didn't get it. Let's read about what Jesus said.

Read: John 3:1-8

Ask:

Do anyone know what Jesus is saying? Sometimes we say the words “Born again” in the church to represent someone is a Christian. But what does that mean? (Allow for answers). Jesus is saying that to know him and follow him we must be made new. We must be made different. And Nicodemus has a great question: HOW?! Because that’s impossible! And it is impossible on our own.

Visual:

While explaining, simply show the caterpillar drawing on one side and lift the balloon as you speak of it becoming a butterfly (on the balloon, there will be a picture of a butterfly and a caterpillar with only the caterpillar showing at first. The balloon will be attached to a water bottle with vinegar in it. In the balloon will be baking soda. When you lift it up, the gases will inflate the balloon and the other side will show a butterfly). Do all of this while explaining:

Think of it like in nature. For a caterpillar to become what it’s really meant to be, it essentially has to become caterpillar soup first. That’s what happens inside a chrysalis. A caterpillar turns into liquid and then is transformed into a butterfly.

Explain:

Nicodemus still doesn’t get it, which is when Jesus tells him the story of the Bronze snake, like the game we played earlier. You see, Jesus is explaining that our sin leads to death (in the Israelites case, it was death by poisonous snakes. In our case, it is the poison and curse that came from a snake in the garden that first tempted Adam and Eve). Jesus, even though he was perfect and never sinned, was explaining to Nicodemus that he would become the sin. He would become the snake on the pole. He would take the death and punishment that our sins deserved all upon himself. And anyone who looked to him wouldn’t die in their sin, but would be saved.

We all sin. Sin is when we miss the mark or do something wrong. It’s when we do something we shouldn’t do, or when we don’t do something we should do. It’s putting something in the place of God. We all sin. Which means we all deserve death. But Jesus wanted to save us from our sins and death. Which is why he died on a cross.

Now, if we look to him on the cross (much like a pole), and confess our sins to him, asking him to forgive us, and ask him to be Lord of our lives (that means he is in charge, not us), we are saved. When we seek and follow Jesus, he offers us eternal life- which means we get to live forever with Jesus.

Visual:

Have the kids get their hands filthy in a bucket of mud (outside).

Explain to them that this is us, covered in sin. But it doesn't have to be because of God's love.

Read John 3:16-18

When we look to Jesus, he cleans us. The Bible says that even though our sins are like scarlet, he washes them as white as snow. It also says that If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. His death and resurrection save us from our sins. When we seek him and believe in him, he restores us, cleanses us, and makes us new. We are born again.

Give the kids a bucket of water to rinse their hands in.

Explain:

This is a lot to take in, so if you have any questions, please ask them! Don't be afraid! Any of the teachers here would be happy to answer your questions or talk to you about this.

Memorize: John 3:16

Close in Prayer

