



Lesson Two

Jesus Explains Salvation

Heart Preparation

Jesus came to be our Savior, and he came to be our *Teacher* as well. When Nicodemus secretly visited Jesus, he came to be taught by the One sent by God the Father. But even before Nicodemus could ask how to become part of God’s family and so inherit eternal life, Jesus declared, “No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” (John 3:3) Then Jesus went on to explain that the Holy Spirit works in a sinner’s heart, giving faith and the gift of new life.

Like Nicodemus, young children and infants are examples of a sinner’s total helplessness to do anything to save himself. When parents brought their little ones to Jesus to be blessed, he said, “The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14b) Here, Jesus was not referring to some innate quality in the child, such as simple trust. Rather, he was speaking of just the opposite. Jesus wanted his hearers to understand that the kingdom of heaven belongs to utterly helpless ones—even infants—and that it is by his grace, and not through any accomplishment of our own, that he chooses and saves us.

As you talk about living in God’s family, pray that the Holy Spirit will give your children faith to trust in Jesus. Ask God to help you explain clearly what it means to be a child of God, and what it means to grow in God’s family.

Pray that your precious children may sense the wonder of his love and forgiveness, trust in Jesus to save them from sin, and gladly receive all that God offers them.

Bible Background

Nicodemus (nick-uh-DEE-mus) means “conqueror (master) of the people.” He was an important Jewish ruler and teacher. One night he came to talk to Jesus, and Jesus taught him about spiritual life. Later, Nicodemus helped Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus. (John 3:1–21; 7:44–53; 19:38–42)

Lynn Waller, *International Bible Children’s Dictionary*



Bible Truth

God draws people to himself, giving them faith to trust in his Son, Jesus, for forgiveness of sins.

Scripture

*John 3:1–21; Genesis 3;
Matthew 19:13–15*



Lesson Focus

God loves us and saves us from our sins.

Goals for the Children

- Learn that Jesus said “you must be born again.”
- Start learning how much God loves them.
- Sing “How Great Is the Love of the Father.”



Memory Minute

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1a