



The Story of Nicodemus – Jesus is Savior

John 3

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son."
(John 3:16-17, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Savior!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Savior!

SAY: What does the word "save" mean? **Let kids respond.** That's right! Save means to rescue or keep safe. When we want to save something, often times we try to place it in a safe spot. Save can also mean rescue. Have you had to be rescued before? **Let a few kids respond.** It can feel scary when we are stuck in a situation and we have to be rescued.

Do you know who saved us all? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! Jesus! He saved us from something that starts with an 's'. Do you know what it is? **Let kids**

respond. Our sins! That's right! Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. He came to save us from our sin. We are all sinners and we all do bad/wrong things. Jesus came to offer hope and saved us from our sin so we could have a relationship with God! I am so excited to learn more about this in our lesson today. First, let's make a craft!

MAKE: Coloring page

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: coloring page, crayons/markers

Directions: Pass out one coloring page per child. Allow children to color their paper while you discuss how Jesus saves.

SAY: Today we get to learn about Nicodemus! Did you know that Jesus saved Nicodemus? I can't wait to learn about him in our story today. Who else does Jesus save? (He can save everyone!)



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Superhero
- Let the People Sing

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."
(John 3:16-17, NIRV)***

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: A Plush Jesus

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

SAY: What do you guys see? It's Jesus! Who is Jesus? **Let kids respond.** Those are all great answers! Jesus is many of those! He is God's son, He is loving, He is the Savior. Jesus saves. He is the only way to Heaven and there is so much to learn about Him and from Him. So, lets dive into God's word today and discover more about how Jesus saves!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *The Story of Nicodemus – Jesus is Savior*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: Questions to Jesus...God so Loved the World

Supplies: A piece of paper, “God so Loved the World” Sticker, soft worship music playing in the background.

SAY: Nicodemus was a leader in the Jewish synagogues. He had many questions to ask Jesus. “Who is Jesus? How are we born again?” Just like Nicodemus, we all have questions too! Sometimes God shows us the answers in His word and sometimes He does not show us the answers in His word.

DIRECTIONS: Hand each child a blank piece of paper. Ask the kids to quietly write or draw a question they have for Jesus. While the kids are writing their question(s) turn on soft worship music in the background. When the kids finish their question have them come up to the cross and lay their question down. After they lay their question down have them pick up a “God so Loved the World” sticker.

SAY: In a way, we are like Nicodemus. We all have a lot of questions on how to be saved, who Jesus is, and why God loves us so much. Just like Jesus taught Nicodemus, we can know that even through all of the questions we have, God loves us very much. So much so, that he sent His son to take away our sins and make a way for us to be with God and have a relationship with him. Jesus is the Savior.

When you go home today place your “God so Loved the World” sticker somewhere you can see it every day whether that be on a notebook, somewhere on your nightstand, a folder in your backpack, etc. Each time you look at your sticker, think about the truth that God loves us so much that He gave us His son, Jesus. Think about how that makes you feel and pray that God will help you to continue to live out this truth. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you share this truth with someone who needs to hear it.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

******After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Feeding Families**Host**

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

SAY: Today we are introducing a new mission focus. What’s really cool about our new mission focus is that we get to learn about a country in Central Asia and how we can partner with God in the work He is doing there. Can anyone guess the name of a country in Central Asia? **Pause.** Yes, Uzbekistan. Did you know that although you are here in Colorado, God can use a place 6,850 miles away like Uzbekistan? **Pause.** It’s true!

Our mission focus for the next four weeks is ELIC. Has anyone heard of ELIC? Does anyone know what it stands for? **Pause.** ELIC stands for English Language Institute/China. It is a nonprofit organization that sends Christian English teachers to unreached countries where there is no established local community of believers. *I know, that’s a mouthful.* What this means is that if you were to go to a country that has an unreached people group, you would not be able to find a community or church, to be with other believers, grow in your faith, or worship God together.

SAY: In 2023, ELIC launched its first long-term teaching program in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is a country in Central Asia known for being one of the world’s leading cotton producers. It is also known for its beautiful buildings and orchards and raising sheep and silkworms. Sadly, Uzbekistan is also one of the most unengaged and unreached people groups in the world with over 95% of the 35 million people being unreached. It may be easy to think that there is no way to help but...

You and I can partner with God to:

- Pray for the teachers as they settle into their new living environments
- Pray for great relationships as teachers get to know the people and the community
- Pray for opportunities for the teachers to share the love of Jesus with students
- Pray for favor with ELIC partners and friends in Uzbekistan

Invite someone to pray for the prayer points above or in general for ELICs initiative in Uzbekistan.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

SAY: *May you remember that God loves you so much that he sent His son to die for your sins so that you can have a relationship with God. May you remember that Jesus is the Savior and hold that truth in your heart.*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10inutes)

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is Savior.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: John 3:4-12**
 - **Who is Jesus talking to?** (Nicodemus.)
 - **How can we enter the Kingdom of God?** (By being born again by the spirit.)
 - **What is a testimony?** (Your story on how God changed your life/is working in your life.)
3. **As Christ followers we all have our own testimony. Our testimony is how we see God working in our lives. Take a couple of minutes and think about how your life was before Jesus and how it is now with Jesus. Take a couple of minutes sharing as a group.**

This week think of someone you can share your testimony with. Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is at work in your life.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Share Jesus Telephone

Supplies: None

Directions: Have children sit in a circle. Whisper a “truth” about Jesus (Jesus died for us, Jesus saved us, Jesus is our friend, etc.) to one of the children and have them pass it on by whispering to the next child. When it gets to the end of the circle, have that child share what they heard. Then share the original “truth” about Jesus and have another child start the game over again.

SAY: Today we got to learn about how Jesus Saves! He shared this good news with Nicodemus and He wants us to share it too. Let’s think of some “truths” or “facts” that we know about Jesus and share them with each other through a game.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.