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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a conversation Jesus had with a guy named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee which means he was a smart Jewish guy who knew God's law inside and out. He thought he knew everything he needed to know about God. He thought he was really good. But, Nicodemus heard that Jesus was teaching that we all have a sin problem that makes us not good people. So, he went to meet Jesus to ask him some questions. Jesus challenged Nicodemus by telling him that just knowing the law wouldn't make him good enough for God. The only way to be good enough for God was by having a relationship with Jesus. Remember, Jesus is God, and he came to save us from our sin problem. So, it doesn't matter how smart we think we are or how much we know about the Bible, if we haven't trusted in Jesus, then our sins aren't forgiven. This was an important lesson for Nicodemus to understand and it's important for us, too. On our own, we can never be good enough for God. We need Jesus to forgive us and live in our hearts and help us to live for him.

Big Idea

The only way to become a Christian is by believing in Jesus.

Key Question

Why can't our good works save us?

Memory Verse

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
 2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Make a list of the good things you did this week. How about a list of some mistakes you made this week?** (Tip: God doesn't count our good and bad things and then decide if he loves us. All we need is a relationship with Jesus!)
 3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
 4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
 5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
 6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because we have a major problem called sin.** (The Bible is clear, we all have a sin problem that has broken our relationship with God. Sin is doing things our own way instead of God's way. The only cure for sin is Jesus. He came to die to pay for our sins so we could be free to live a life that honors God.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** What's our major problem? What is sin? Who is our only cure? **4-5th** Why do you think God cares about how we live? What do you think the world would be like if Jesus never came?
 7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is God's grace? Why can't we boast about our good deeds?** (Answer: Grace is an undeserved gift. You can't do something to earn God's love, he loves you because he created you. And, his forgiveness is free for us, too. Jesus paid the price. All we have to do is accept the gift by trusting in Jesus. There is no room for bragging about our own good deeds. It's all because of Jesus!)
 8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: MEMORY VERSE GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, cut up the words from the Memory verse template (page 5-6) and place in a bowl or basket.
- Have kids take turns coming up to pull a word out of the bowl. Each time tape the word up on the whiteboard. Once all the words are on the board, work as a class to get the words in the correct order to say the memory verse. Say it as a class a few times.

Supplies needed: Memory verse template (pg. 5-6, precut, 1 set per class), Tape, Bowl/Basket

OPTION 2: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD BOOKMARK

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Bookmark template (page 7). Have them cut out each item.
- Have them color the world and cross and also the heart. Then, have them glue the world at the top of the bookmark and the heart towards the bottom. Allow them to continue to color and decorate their bookmark.
- As they work, remind the kids that Nicodemus thought he could be good enough for God by doing good things and by knowing the law. But, Jesus told Nicodemus that the only way to be made right with God is by trusting in Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. He died to pay for OUR sins, not his. All we can do is accept the free gift Jesus offers us and invite him into our hearts.

Supplies needed: Bookmark template (pg. 7, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Crayons, Glue

Q3

LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus and Nicodemus

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Have you ever thought about how good you have to be to become a Christian? You know, how many rules you need to follow before God will accept you?

Key Points:

- Nicodemus was a Jewish _____ leader. John 3:1
- Nicodemus was curious about what _____ was teaching. John 3:2
- Jesus told Nicodemus how to become a _____. John 3:3
- The only way to become a Christian is by _____ in Jesus. John 3:16

Memory Verse:

John 3:16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *Make a list of all the good things you did this week. How about a list of some mistakes you made this week.*
3. *Who was Nicodemus? What did the Pharisees study a lot?*
4. *What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he needed to do to be saved?*
5. *Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is God's grace? Why can't we boast about our good deeds?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

THE ONLY WAY TO
BECOME A
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Key Question

Why can't our good works save us?

Memory Verse

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[link](#)

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