

Children and family talk for 30th May 2021

Hello everyone, it's good to have you with me as we explore more of the Bible together and praise God. We will start by talking to God:

Wonderful God,
as we gaze at the miracle of your world,
intricate and interconnected,
huge in scope, microscopic in detail,
we are amazed.

We wonder that you love each one of us,
seeing us, knowing us and filling us with the breath of life.

You hold us in being moment by moment.

Help us to worship you as mystery, to hug you as friend,
and with you, to care for the whole of creation.

Amen.

Our Bible reading today is from John 3 verses 1 -17

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi", he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God".

"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus replied, "I assure you; no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

"How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from Heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

Now let's sing again; **All over the world**

All over the world the spirit is moving

All over the world as the prophet said it
would be;
All over the world there's a mighty
revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters
cover the sea.

All over His Church, God's spirit is moving
All over His Church as the prophet said it
would be;
All over His church there's a mighty
revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters
cover the sea.

Right here in this place the Spirit is
moving,
Right here in this place as the Prophet said
it would be;
Right here in this place there's a mighty
revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters
cover the sea.

Roy Turner. SoF 12/JP 5 Copyright C 1984 Kingsway Thankyou
Music CCLI 63352

Let's talk about our Bible verses

In today's story we have two very different people. But we also hear about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity, as it's sometimes called.

Nicodemus has seen Jesus at work, healing and doing miracles among the people, and he believes that God is working through him. Although Nicodemus believes this, he didn't want the other religious leaders and Pharisees to see him visit Jesus – he comes to talk with him in the cover of the night. I guess he is afraid of what they might think of him or do to him if he is caught talking to Jesus who they think of as a trouble maker.

Jesus replies to Nicodemus statement with one of his own, which is hard for Nicodemus to understand. "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God".

Nicodemus asks: "How can someone be born twice?"

Jesus tells him that in order to get into the Kingdom of Heaven you need to also be born of the Spirit – born again. Jesus says trying to understand this is like trying to know where the wind is coming or going to. You can't know, it's a matter of believing.

After explaining to Nicodemus, using the example of Moses from the old testament, that he would have known very well, Jesus then makes the statement that Christians are very familiar with: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...' We don't hear any more from Nicodemus in this passage.

Jesus is talking about himself, Jesus is God's Son, who God gave to the world to pay the price for all the things we do wrong. That doesn't seem fair does it? Why should Jesus pay for the things we do? But this is how much God loves us. WOW!

The last verse tells us that Jesus came into the world to save it, not to judge it. God doesn't need to judge, because judging is all about deciding right from wrong. God knows who has done good or bad, God doesn't need to make a decision, God already knows. And God forgives us if we believe and say sorry for the things we've done wrong. If we can do this, we will have eternal, everlasting life with Jesus.

Let's talk to God now:

Lord God, when life is hard,
when we are struggling,
hear our prayer, give us faith,
and help our unbelief.

Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's activity sheet from roots:

[30-may-activity-sheet.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/30-may-activity-sheet.pdf)