



Family Discipleship Guide

January-April 2021

JESUS MET NICODEMUS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 3:1-21

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How do you know God loves you? God sent Jesus to save us.

Elementary: Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What is the important lesson Jesus taught Nicodemus?
- What does it mean to be born again?
- How can we have new life?
- Why do we need to be born again?
- How does Jesus know what heaven is like?
- How did God show His love to the world?
- Why did God send His Son into the world?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Share with each of your children a baby book or other keepsakes you have of his or her birth. Tell your testimony-how you became a Christian and how your life has changed. The Bible says the people need to be "born again" because sin makes us spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

Make *oobleck**, a substance that acts like both a solid and a liquid. Remind your kids that Jesus told Nicodemus that a person has to be born again to enter God's kingdom. Without Jesus, we are spiritually dead. Our hearts are hard and we love sin more than we love God. But God can soften people's hearts. Jesus offers new life to those who trust in Him for salvation.

*To make oobleck: Mix 1 cup of water with 1 1/2 cups of cornstarch and stir thoroughly.

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 3:22-36

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Where did Jesus come from? Jesus came from heaven.

Elementary: Where did Jesus come from? God sent Jesus to earth from heaven.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who did John say was the Messiah?
- What did Jesus do when He was older?
- How can you live with God forever in heaven?
- What did John say would happen to someone who believed in Jesus? (John 3:36)
- Who did John say must become greater?
- What will those who believe in the Son have?
- What talent or ability do you have that you could use to tell people about Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Review the Bible story in John 3:22-36. Point out that when Jesus began His ministry, John's mission was complete. John stepped aside because he knew Jesus is more important. Talk about the importance of obeying God's plan instead of following our own plans. Think of ways that your family can put Jesus first.

Make craft stick puppets of both Jesus and John. Make sure to add lots of details such as hair, beards, and clothes. Decide which puppet will be John and which one will be Jesus. Use the puppets to retell the Bible story.

JESUS MET A SAMARITAN WOMAN

BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 4:1-26

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.

Elementary: What does Jesus offer? Jesus offers eternal life.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Did the Jews like to go to Samaria?
- What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman?
- Whom does Jesus love?
- What did Jesus tell the woman to give Him?
- What did Jesus say would happen to the person who drank water from Him?
- What does Jesus offer?
- Who did the woman know was coming?
- Who did Jesus tell the woman He is?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Give each of your kids a glass of water. Prompt them to talk about what is good about water. Talk about how water satisfies us when we are thirsty. Explain that deep down, everyone has a thirst for God. Jesus said He gives living water so people will never be thirsty again. Sin separated people from God, but Jesus died for our sins so we can be with God forever.

Use a white crayon to write out the message, God Loves Me! On a piece of paper. Use watercolors to paint over and around the message. Hang the art where it can easily be reviewed with your child.

REJECTION AT NAZARETH

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 4:16-30

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What does the word *gospel* mean?
Gospel means "good news."

Elementary: What is the good news about Jesus?
Jesus died for our sins.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Where did Jesus grow up?
- What did Jesus come to do?
- Did the people believe that Jesus was sent from God?
- Why didn't the people believe Jesus is the Messiah?
- What two prophets did Jesus talk about?
- How did the people in the synagogue feel?
- What is the good news about Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Invite your kids to draw a picture of a time were they were left out and how they felt. Open your Bible to Luke 4:16-30 and remind your kids that Jesus was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. Lead your child to read John 6:37 aloud. Explain that people may reject us on earth, but when we go to Jesus for salvation, He will never reject us.

Take some time for each family member to practice telling the gospel message. Use the "Gospel: God's Plan for Me, to guide you.



JESUS HEALED AN OFFICIAL'S SON

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How could Jesus make evil spirits go away? Jesus is more powerful than all evil.

Elementary: What did the evil spirits know about Jesus? Jesus is the Holy One of God.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who came to ask Jesus for help?
- Why did the official need Jesus' help?
- How was Jesus able to heal the sick boy?
- Did Jesus have to go to the sick boy in order to heal him?
- How did Jesus heal the boy?
- What did Jesus say people needed to see to believe in Jesus?
- Is Jesus God's Son?
- Who can heal sick people? Jesus can heal sick people.
- What happened when Jesus performed miracles? Jesus' miracles helped people believe in Him.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Think about a time when something bad happened, tell about that time. Then share something good that came from what happened. Discuss how God is always in control over good and evil.

Using heavy paper, have your children make a design with painter tape on the piece of paper. Color the paper with markers or crayons. Once done, carefully remove the painter's tape to reveal the negative, or white spaces. Explain, when you took the tape off of the drawing, you had power to remove something from your picture. In fact, you had so much power over the tape that it wasn't even hard for you to take the tape off the paper.

In a similar way, Jesus had the power to take away the evil spirit from the man in the Bible story. Jesus had so much power over the spirit that it wasn't hard for Jesus to make the evil spirit go away. How could Jesus make evil spirits go away. Jesus is more powerful than all evil. We do not have to be afraid because Jesus is powerful.

JESUS DROVE OUT EVIL SPIRITS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How could Jesus make evil spirits go away? Jesus is more powerful than all evil.

Elementary: What did the evil spirits know about Jesus? Jesus is the Holy One of God.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What was Jesus doing when the man started shouting?
- What was wrong with the man in this week's story?
- What did the evil spirit do when Jesus told it to stop?
- How did people react when the spirit came out of the man?
- What did Jesus show that He had power over?
- How could Jesus make evil spirits go away? Jesus is more powerful than all evil.
- What did the evil spirit know about Jesus? Jesus is the Holy Son of God.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

List the names of sick family members or friends. Allow each family member to add names to the list anytime during the week. Post the list on the refrigerator, and encourage each family member to pray every day for those on the list. Toward the end of the week, pray together and prepare a get-well card for each person. Let each person know you are praying for them to get well.

JESUS HEALED PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39

KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How can we thank Jesus for His help?
We can love Jesus and obey Him.

Elementary: How can we show we are thankful to Jesus?
We can serve Jesus and live for Him.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Whose house did Jesus visit?
- Who was sick?
- How was she sick?
- Who made her feel better?
- What did Jesus do to make her feel better?
- What did Peter's mother-in-law do to show she was thankful when Jesus healed her?
- How can we show we are thankful to Jesus?
- Which prophet said Jesus would take away our weaknesses and diseases? (Matthew 8:17)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Focus on being thankful, this week. Set a container somewhere in a central location in your house. Place several pennies beside the container. Each time a family member show thankfulness, he or she should place a penny in the container. At the end of the week count up the number of pennies in the container. Peter's mother-in-law was thankful for how Jesus healed her. Take time as a family to share something that you are thankful for.

JESUS CLEANSED A LEPER

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How did Jesus help the man with leprosy? Jesus touched the man and healed him.

Elementary: Who can take away our sins? Jesus can and wants to cleanse us from sin.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How was the man sick in our Bible story?
- Was the sick man clean or unclean?
- Was the sick man allowed to touch other people?
- Who helped the sick man?
- What did the man want Jesus to do?
- Whom did Jesus instruct the man to tell about, what happened?
- What did the man do when he left Jesus?
- Who can take away our sin?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Make body wash together as a family. Take your families favorite bar soap and grate it into a sauce pan. Add 2-3 cups of water to the grated soap. Heat over medium heat until the soap dissolves. If desired, you can add essential oils to the soap mixture to make your own scent. Allow the soap to cool for a few hours. It should become more like a gel. If it is too hard, reheat and add more water. Pour cooled soap into a squeezable container and enjoy. Talk with your family about how soap cleans away dirt, but only Jesus can remove sin.

FOUR FRIENDS HELPED

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How did Jesus help the man who could not walk? Jesus helped the man and forgave his sins.

Elementary: How could Jesus forgive people's sins? Jesus was going to take the punishment for sin when He died on the cross.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Where was Jesus teaching?
- What was wrong with the man on the mat?
- How many friends carried the man who couldn't walk?
- Why couldn't the friends get inside the house?
- How did the four men get their sick friend to Jesus?
- What did the man do after Jesus healed him?
- What did the religious leaders think?
- How did the crowd react?
- How did Jesus help the man who could not walk? Jesus healed the man and forgave his sins.
- How could Jesus forgive people's sins? Jesus was going to take the punishment for sin when He died on the cross.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Read Matthew 9:1-8 together. Create get-well packs for a hospital or church ministry. Include a travel-size tissue pack, travel-size hand sanitizer or lotion, a few cough drops or peppermint candies, and some adhesive bandages. Place the items in a ziplock bag. Write on an adhesive label "This may help you feel better, but only Jesus heals! We are praying for you!" Pray over the bags for the people who will use them.

JESUS HEALED A MAN'S HAND

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11

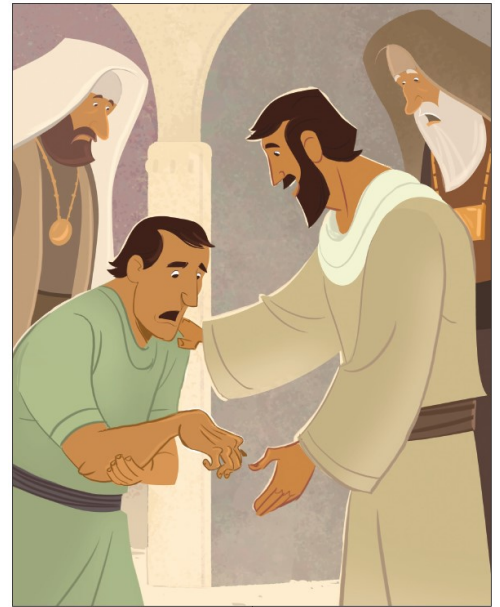
KEY PASSAGE:

John 20:30-31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What is the Sabbath? The Sabbath is a day to rest.

Elementary: What did Jesus' miracles prove?
Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What is a synagogue?
- What is the Sabbath?
- What did God's people do on the Sabbath?
- Did Jesus say it was OK to help people on the Sabbath?
- What happened when Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand?
- How did the religious leaders feel when Jesus healed the man's hand on the Sabbath?
- What did Jesus' miracles prove? Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

It's always the right time to do something good! Assemble together and assign a family member a task to help another family member. For example, instruct siblings to help each other with chores. As a family, you may want to volunteer at a soup kitchen or local food bank. Talk about how God wants us to do good things each day because we love Him and want to obey Him.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 5-7

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:33

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who can keep all of God's law? Only Jesus obeyed God perfectly.

Elementary: What did Jesus teach in His Sermon on the Mount? Jesus taught how believers should live.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Where did Jesus go to teach the people?
- What did Jesus say His disciples were to the world?
- How can people who believe in Jesus be like lights?
- How did Jesus say people should treat their enemies?
- Can a person go to heaven just by doing the right things?
- What did Jesus tell the people to seek first?
- Does God provide for His people?
- How did the people respond to Jesus' message?
- Who can keep all of God's laws? Only Jesus obeyed God perfectly.
- What did Jesus teach in His Sermon on the Mount? Jesus taught how believers should live.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Following Jesus doesn't mean just doing good things on the outside like the religious leaders did; people who know and love Jesus have changed hearts that want to honor Him. Review the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. Have your child draw a picture of something from Jesus' sermon. Remind them that Jesus taught how believers should live.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:33

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What can you do when you hear the truth about Jesus? I can believe the truth about Jesus.

Elementary: How do people respond to the gospel? Some people believe the gospel and others reject the gospel.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What did Jesus teach people about as He traveled from town to town?
- What is a parable?
- What parable did Jesus tell about in our story today?
- What was the story really about?
- Did everyone understand Jesus' parable?
- What types of soil did the seeds fall on?
- Does everyone who hears the truth of God believe it?
- How is a Christian like the good soil?
- What can you do when you hear the truth about Jesus? I can believe the truth about Jesus.
- How do people respond to the gospel? Some people believe the gospel and others reject the gospel.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Decorate foam cups or small flower pots. Review the story while kids decorate their cups. When they are finished decorating, write the key passage on the cup, or print the key passage onto an adhesive label and attach it to the cup. Spoon potting soil and grass seed into the cups. Allow the children to water their seed with a few drops of water. Talk about how to care for the seeds and what would happen if they are not cared for.

THREE PARABLES

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 15

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:33

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What makes God happy? God is happy when we turn away from sin and love Jesus.

Elementary: What does it mean to be lost? Being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why were the religious leaders angry?
- What was Jesus' first story about?
- How many sheep did the shepherd leave to find just one lost sheep?
- In Jesus' second story about the lost coin, how did the lady feel when she found it?
- How did the father feel when his lost son returned home?
- What did Jesus say there would be joy in heaven over?
- What were the stories really about?
- What makes God happy? God is happy when we turn away from sin and love Jesus.
- What does it mean to be lost? Being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

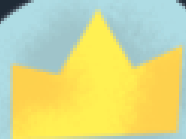
Play a hide-and-seek game. Hide a coin or toy sheep in the room and challenge kids to find it. Play several rounds. Lead your kids to retell the three parables Jesus told in Luke 15. Emphasize that Jesus told these parables to teach about Himself. Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price-His own life- to save people from sin.

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GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*