



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of January 23, 2022: John 3:1-21

Memory Verse

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Family Prayer

Morning Prayer: Up and at 'em, here we go, Lord! Another great day to love you, myself, and my neighbor. Amen.

Bedtime Blessing:

The wind blows in the night
The stars twinkle ever bright
Warm and cozy, slumber long
With the Spirit's restful song

Craft Corner

"Butterflies" (all age)

You will need: supplies to create or color butterflies (pipe cleaners and popsicle sticks, paper and crayons etc. to color butterflies)

For younger children: help them create a butterfly from a popsicle stick and pipe cleaners or provide picture to color. For older children

The Story: Nicodemus

When Jesus was alive a long time ago, people often wanted to ask him questions. Who are you? How can you make sick people get better? Will you help me please? How many times should I forgive someone who hurts me? People came up and asked questions in the street. People asked questions when they had dinner with Jesus. People asked questions when they heard the stories Jesus told. People asked questions when they saw Jesus healing people who were blind or deaf.

There was a man called Nicodemus who met Jesus and wanted to ask him some questions. He wanted the chance to sit down and talk to Jesus. Most of all, he wanted to find out if Jesus was a good person. Can I trust you, Jesus? Have you really come from God? That's what Nicodemus wanted to ask.



But for a long time, he kept his questions quiet and asked nothing. Nicodemus was scared to walk up to Jesus in the street or at dinner or when there was a crowd of people listening. But Nicodemus still had his

help them research the life cycle of the butterfly. Talk about how at time it looks as if the cocoon is dead but from it comes new life. Talk about the story and in particular the way Nicodemus' life was changed after visiting Jesus: he now had a new life. Talk about times when things have changed in their lives.

Activity

"In The Wind" (all age)

You will need: anything that can float in the air (balloons, feathers, tissue paper).

Throw the object into the air instructing the children to keep it afloat by blowing on it. Controlling the item will no doubt be difficult for it is hard to know where it is going. Talk about the wind and how you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is like that, we do not know where it is leading us.



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questions. Can I trust you, Jesus? Have you really come from God?

Eventually Nicodemus had an idea! He had noticed that sometimes, at night time, when everyone was going to bed, Jesus would go off by himself for a while. He would go to a quiet place away from the town, sometimes a field, sometimes a hillside, sometimes beside the lake. I think Jesus prays a lot when he's alone, Nicodemus thought, but maybe one night I could follow him and talk to him when no-one else is there.

So, Nicodemus waited and watched, with his questions and his wondering about Jesus.

One night, Jesus slipped out of the house he was staying in, and walked off to the lakeside. He thought he was all alone, but Nicodemus saw him go, and quietly made his way after Jesus, catching up with him by the side of the lake. At last he has the chance to talk to Jesus when nobody else was there. At last he could ask all the questions he wanted to ask. Can I trust you, Jesus? Have you really come from God?

And Jesus had lots of questions for Nicodemus too! They talked for a long time. Jesus was quite happy to hear everything that Nicodemus wanted to say. He didn't mind at all that Nicodemus had wanted to wait until there was nobody else there listening while they talked and talked.

Questions and answers and questions with no answers! By the time Nicodemus went home to bed, he had lots more questions! But somehow he knew that one of his big questions had been answered...

Can I trust you, Jesus? Yes, thought Nicodemus, I can trust Jesus, he's a good person and he comes from God. But there are still so many things I want to ask!

If you wish, follow up the story by asking:

- Have you ever felt like Nicodemus?
- What would you ask Jesus?
- What is it like to know you can trust someone?
- What big questions do you wonder about?