

LESSON 5

NICODEMUS VISITS JESUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sent Jesus Because He Loves Us

SCRIPTURE: John 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Nicodemus is curious about Jesus so visits Him seeking answers to his questions. Jesus tells Nicodemus how to have eternal life through Him!

WORD OF WONDER: God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. —from John 3:16

Activity: Do You Love?

Activity: My Heart for Jesus

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Heart Hunt

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Do You Love?

SUPPLIES: various toys or items from around your room
Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We're going to talk today about how God sent Jesus because He loves us. What are some things you love? Allow the kids to respond. **Let's get curious!**

Show the kids various things from around your room and ask them whether they love each item. Encourage them to show you how they show that they love something. Tell them to show a loving action (such as giving a hug or a high five) when you say the word, "love."

We're going to talk today about how God shows His great and big love (loving action) **for us! Do you know God loves (loving action) **you so much!?****

Activity: My Heart for Jesus

SUPPLIES: paper, scissors (prep only)
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Jesus Picture

Ahead of time, print the Jesus Picture and cut out a paper heart.

Let's play a game called, "My Heart for Jesus!" In God's big story today, we will see that God sent Jesus because He loves us. And we can show our love for God too! To help us think about our story for today, let's put our heart on Jesus to show God we love Him too!

Encourage the kids to take turns placing the paper heart anywhere on the Jesus Picture. **God loves us more than anything and loves us more than we can imagine.**



Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD SENT JESUS BECAUSE HE LOVES US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

SENT JESUS—Arms out to your sides.

BECAUSE HE LOVES—Hug self.

US—Point to yourself.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning that God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. Jesus loves you too! Let's sing a song to help us praise God and thank Him for His love!

Play songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

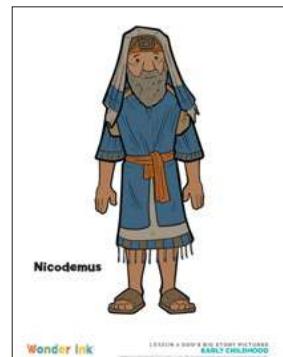
God's Big Story

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Pictures, [Nicodemus Visits Jesus God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Pictures.

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Nicodemus. Encourage the kids to say "Nicodemus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Nicodemus!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also show the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.



When Jesus was on earth, there was a man named Nicodemus. He was a leader in the church. Some of the others didn't trust Jesus. Show a picture of Nicodemus.

Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus. Show a picture of Jesus.

So Nicodemus sneaked out at night to visit Jesus, talk with Him, and ask questions. Show a picture of a question mark.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom unless they are born again." (John 3:3).

Nicodemus didn't understand. He asked Jesus, "How can someone be born when they are already old?" Show a picture of a baby.

Jesus told him that unless he was born in a special way with the Holy Spirit, he couldn't see God's kingdom. Nicodemus was still so confused.

Jesus told Nicodemus He came so everyone would know His love and trust in Him. Show a picture of a cross.

Jesus said, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." (John 3:16). Show a picture of the world.

God sent Jesus to us so we can someday live forever with Him. God sent Jesus because He loves us. Say it with me: God sent Jesus because He loves us! Encourage the kids to respond.

Word of Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son.

—from John 3:16

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from John 3:16.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you:

- **GOD**—Point up to God.
- **SO LOVED**—Hands on heart.
- **THE WORLD**—Hands in a big circle over your head.
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—Point up with one finger.
- **AND ONLY SON**—Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, and thank God for loving us.

Put your hands on your heart when I say, “loving,” or “love,” put your hands on your heart. Let’s pray and talk to God.

God, thank You for loving (hands on heart) **us. Thank You for sending Jesus for us. We love** (hands on heart) **You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to you. May you know His love is big! May you always remember there is nothing you can do to make Him not love you. God loves you, and you are His precious child!

Activity: Heart Hunt

SUPPLIES: paper, scissors (prep only)

Cut out as many paper hearts as you’d like. Hide the hearts around the room for kids to find.

Let’s play a game and see just how much God loves us! I’ve hidden lots of paper hearts all around the room. See how many you can find! When you find one, put them in a pile and let’s count how many we collect. Let every heart you find remind you that God sent Jesus because He loves you!

Invite the kids find hearts around the room and make a pile. Count them with the kids once they find them and remind them of today’s Wonder Truth: **GOD SENT JESUS BECAUSE HE LOVES US.**