



Session 4: Jesus and Nicodemus

God's Hope is everlasting and much better than we can imagine.

Jesus is the greatest Hero Of Hope.



Bible Story

Jesus is God's ultimate Hero of Hope. He came to point people to God and to offer a hope that is everlasting – a hope that is above and beyond anything we can imagine. In this encounter with a religious leader, Jesus talks about this everlasting hope.

Background

- ◆ God's mission plan focuses on Jesus – he is at the centre of the story of hope in the Bible.
- ◆ Jesus' family tree includes Rahab, Ruth and David – the three *Heroes Of Hope* we have already learned about it (you can read about Jesus' family tree in Matthew Chapter 1)
- ◆ Not everyone was happy with Jesus' teaching. Many of the religious leaders didn't believe that he was God's promised king. Lots of them were angry at Jesus because they didn't like what he said.
- ◆ Our story is about a religious leader who had heard Jesus teaching and who had lots of questions for him. He wanted to learn more from Jesus.

Bible Reading - John 3:1-21

Read the passage or watch an animated version of the story (link below and on web page).

Animated Bible Story

If you'd like to watch an animated version of today's Bible story, you may want to click on either of the following links. Both will take you to external sites with suitable versions of the stories.

(CMSI bears no responsibility for the content on these pages).

Jellybean TV: <https://jellybeantelevi.dotcompal.co/video/u59ycaslav>

Kids On The Move: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQDGTtfwDSY>



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Bible Passage: John 3:1-21 [International Children's Bible]

There was a man named Nicodemus who was one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. **2** One night Nicodemus came to Jesus. He said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do the miracles you do, unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom."

4 Nicodemus said, "But if a man is already old, how can he be born again? He cannot enter his mother's body again. So how can he be born a second time?"

5 But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God's kingdom. **6** A person's body is born from his human parents. But a person's spiritual life is born from the Spirit. **7** Don't be surprised when I tell you, 'You must all be born again.' **8** The wind blows where it wants to go. You hear the wind blow. But you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus asked, "How can all this be possible?"

10 Jesus said, "You are an important teacher in Israel. But you still don't understand these things? **11** I tell you the truth. We talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you don't accept what we tell you. **12** I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So surely you will not believe me if I tell you about the things of heaven! **13** The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

14 "Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. The Son of Man must be lifted up too. **15** Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.

16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. **17** God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. **18** He who believes in God's Son is not judged guilty. He who does not believe has already been judged guilty, because he has not believed in God's only Son. **19** People are judged by this fact: I am the Light from God that has come into the world. But men did not want light. They wanted darkness because they were doing evil things.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light. He will not come to the light because it will show all the evil things he has done. **21** But he who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that the things he has done were done through God."