

Temple Family Bible Study – April 26th

Option #1: Nicodemus' Encounter with Jesus at Night

Note: This week, we are providing two Bible study guides. This Bible study about Nicodemus is very evangelistically focused, so if you have members of your family or small group who need to make a profession of faith, use this study. If not, use the study on the next page. Thanks!

Start the Conversation

What is your favorite verse in the Bible? [Allow each person in the group to share.]

[If John 3:16 is not shared...] One of the most loved verses of the Bible is John 3:16. Do you know it?

Do you know what was happening when Jesus said these famous words in John 3:16? Let's read about it...

Turn to the Bible

Read John 3:1-21 and then ask the following questions.

Who was Nicodemus (v. 1)? Was being a religious leader enough for Nicodemus to go to heaven?

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus had to happen to him before he could go to heaven?

Why did Nicodemus need to be 'born again' (v. 6)?

Who is it that Jesus said was condemned (v. 18)? Why is a person condemned?

Who is it that Jesus said will never perish (v. 15-16)?

Why did God send His Son into the world? (v. 16-17)?

Is Nicodemus the only man who needs to be 'born again'?

Make a Plan

Do you need to be 'born again'?

All people everywhere need to be saved! Religion (going to church) or even being a religious leader (like a pastor or Sunday school teacher) is not enough to earn your way into heaven. You must be 'born again.'

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Option #2: God as a Pillar of Fire

Note: This week, we are providing two Bible study guides. The previous study is about Nicodemus and has an evangelistic focus. This study is designed to dive a little deeper into the subject of “God Is Light” from the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt.

Start the Conversation

Give each person a piece of paper and pencil. Ask them to list as many of the ten plagues from the book of Exodus as they can remember. Give them one point for each correct plague and one bonus point if it is in the correct order (#1-#10). Look at Exodus 7 – 11 to check your answers.

When the Israelites left Egypt, they were leaving the only home that most of them had ever known. **Have you ever had to move to a new place? What were some of the feelings you experienced?**

Turn to the Bible

When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He did not lead them along the most direct route to the Promised Land. Read Exodus 13:17-22. **Why did God not use the most direct route? How did He lead them?**

How do you think it made the Israelites feel to know that God was with them?

Besides guidance, what else did the pillar of fire provide for the Israelites?

Not long after the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them to make them return to serving the Egyptians. In Exodus 14, the Egyptian army overtook the Israelites as they camped by the Red Sea. Read Exodus 14:10-25. **How did God provide them with a way of escape from the Egyptians? What did God do to protect the Israelites from the approaching army?**

We are all familiar with what happened in the crossing of the Red Sea, but we seldom think about why God made these things happen in the way that he did. Read Exodus 14:30-31. **What was God’s purpose in allowing these events to occur?**

How does God’s working in this situation change the way you view a difficult situation in your life?

Make a Plan

In Exodus 15, after the Israelites reached the other side of the sea, Moses led the people of Israel in singing a song to the LORD about all He had done for them. To help understand why this song is in the middle of this story, watch this [video](#) from our friends at the Bible Project—“How to Read the Bible: Poetry.”