

STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

3 MAY 2020



... and welcome to this week's Sunday Bible Club. It is James writing this week.



I hope that you have had good week

Take care of yourselves and we are all praying that you and your family will be kept safe and well.

With love from everyone at Sunday Bible Club

This week's story can be found in the Bible in John chapter 3 verses 1 - 16, which says:

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it

comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



Can you see the wind?

We can't see the wind, but we can see what the wind does.

Jesus said that becoming a Christian is like what the wind does. Listen to find out what he meant.

It was dark outside the house where Jesus was staying because it was nighttime. They did not have streetlights, even in the house there were no electric lights to switch on, just little oil lamps that flickered like candles.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door. A visitor? Who could this be? Most people did not visit at nighttime, it must have been very important.

Nicodemus was an important man. He was a teacher. He studied the Bible and told people about God and his laws. Lots of people knew him because he was very clever.



Nicodemus had heard about Jesus - what he said and how he made people well. Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus, but he was afraid what people might say if they knew. Now it was dark, and he had come to see Jesus, hoping no one would see him.

What Nicodemus didn't know was that Jesus knew all about him and that he was afraid of what people might say. He knew Nicodemus needed a Saviour.

Jesus said something strange to Nicodemus. He said, **"You must be born again. It is the only way to go to heaven."**

Poor puzzled Nicodemus, he didn't understand. "You don't mean I have to be a little baby again? How could I do that?"

No, of course Jesus didn't mean that.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus that everyone begins as a little baby. Then he explained that trusting Jesus and believing in him is like starting a new life.



When we are babies we belong to the families of our mummies and daddies. Jesus knew that Nicodemus need to trust in him - like everyone else does. Being important didn't make Nicodemus different inside.

Nicodemus was still puzzled. What did Jesus mean? He didn't understand.

Jesus helped Nicodemus by talking about the wind. It will help us to think about the wind too.

Have you ever been out when the wind is blowing strong? What is it like?

The wind can be very powerful sometimes.

Jesus explained that God the Holy Spirit is like the wind.

... We can't see him, but he is very strong.

... We don't know where he will go or what he will do.

... We can see what he does.

... He changes people inside by giving them a new kind of life.



... You can see when someone has this new life - they love God and his book, the Bible. They are kinder and help other people more.

Nicodemus was thinking hard! He wanted to understand what Jesus was saying, but it was hard.

Perhaps you're finding it hard too - keep reading!

Jesus went on to explain: **"I'm going to be put on a cross to die for people's sins. That's how God is going to give people new life. When people believe in me, that I died for them, God will forgive their sins and give them a new life."**

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of a story from the Old Testament when the people were dying from snake bites because God's people had been grumbling against him, so God decided to punish them. The only way to stop the punishment was for the people to look at a bronze serpent (snake) that God told Moses to make. If the people were sorry, they looked at the serpent and God would heal them.

The people needed to look at the snake and believe that they would be healed, so we must look at Jesus on the cross and believe we shall be saved.

Nicodemus didn't know it, but God was already beginning to change him inside.

Like Nicodemus, everyone needs God to forgive their sins and give them a new life. Because Jesus died on the cross, God the Holy Spirit can give new life to those who trust in him. When God begins to make them like Jesus - people will see what has happened!

Ask God to change you inside and give you a new life too.