

# Lesson Guide 11 – The Life of Jesus (Nicodemus)

## John 3:1-21

**Pre-class Activity** – Starter Worksheet (Brainercise Answer: **Window**, Who Am I: **Barnabas**)

1

### Prayer Requests

Praise  
Thanksgiving  
Concern  
Grow up to be like Jesus

2

### Pharisees

Jesus described Pharisees as hypocrites – They do not practice what they preach. Hypocrite is someone who puts on a false appearance of being good or religious, wears a mask or an actor or pretender.  
Nicodemus was a Pharisee, but an exception, since he seemed to be searching for truth.

3

**Nicodemus visits Jesus at night** - He probably chose the night in order to escape observation. He did not dare encounter the hostility of the priests, filled with rage over the cleansing of the temple, and yet he wished to know more of the one whom he believed to be sent from God.

4

**Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born again** - John the Baptist baptized both Jew and Gentile as a sign of purification by repentance. Nicodemus would have understood the expression, 'born of water,' as a reference to baptism."

5

**Nicodemus asks Jesus how this can be**

6

**Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up** - The reference is to Numbers 21:4-9. As the bitten Israelites were healed by looking upon the brazen serpent lifted on high, so the world in sin is saved by looking to Jesus lifted up upon the cross.

7

**Life comes through the Son**

### Other Bible passages where Nicodemus is mentioned

John 7:50-51 – Nicodemus defends Jesus, “Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?” Guilty until proven innocent or Innocent until proven guilty.  
John 19:39-42 - Nicodemus assists Joseph of Arimathea in preparing the body of Jesus for burial.

**Discussion Question - Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Why do you think some people choose to keep their belief in Jesus hidden?**