

Children Sabbath School Lesson #87 for 8-2-2014
Song for opening the Sabbath School:

<i>A beautiful Hymnal</i> <i>Savior, teach me day by day</i>	
<p>Savior, teach me day by day Love's sweet lesson to obey, Sweeter lesson cannot be, Loving Him Who first loved me.</p> <p>With a child's glad heart of love At Thy bidding may I move, Prompt to serve and follow Thee, Loving Him Who first loved me.</p>	<p>Teach me thus Thy steps to trace, Strong to follow in Thy grace, Learning how to love from Thee, Loving Him Who first loved me.</p> <p>Love in loving finds employ, In obedience all her joy; Ever new that joy will be, Loving Him Who first loved me.</p>
<p>Thus may I rejoice to show That I feel the love I owe; Singing, till Thy face I see, Of His love Who first loved me.</p>	

Opening Prayer – *requesting one of the little ones or mommies or daddies to give prayer*

Lesson #87: Nicodemus

John 3:1 (KJV)

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

This week boys and girls, we will begin a new chapter in our lesson entitle, "Nicodemus" of our study book!

John 3:2 (KJV)

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John 3:3 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:4 (KJV)

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

John 7:50 (KJV)

Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

John 7:51 (KJV)

Doth our law judge [any] man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

John 7:52 (KJV)

They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

Let's continue in our book Desire of Ages, Chapter #17, pages 167 – 171

Nicodemus held a high position of trust in the Jewish nation. He was highly educated, and possessed talents of no ordinary character, and he was an honored member of the national council. With others, he had been stirred by the teaching of Jesus. Though rich, learned, and honored, he had been strangely attracted by the humble Nazarene. The lessons that had fallen from the Saviour's lips had greatly impressed him, and he desired to learn more of these wonderful truths. {DA 167.1}

Christ's exercise of authority in the cleansing of the temple had roused the determined hatred of the priests and rulers. They feared the power of this stranger. Such boldness on the part of an obscure Galilean was not to be tolerated. They were bent on putting an end to His work. But not all were agreed in this purpose. There were some that feared to oppose One who was so evidently moved upon by the Spirit of God. They remembered how prophets had been slain for rebuking the sins of the leaders in Israel. They knew that the bondage of the Jews to a heathen nation was the result of their stubbornness in rejecting reproofs from God. They feared that in plotting against Jesus the priests and rulers were following in the steps of their fathers, and would bring fresh calamities upon the nation. Nicodemus shared these feelings. In a council of the Sanhedrin, when the course to be pursued toward Jesus was considered, Nicodemus advised caution and moderation. He urged that if Jesus was really invested with authority from God, it would be perilous to reject His warnings. The priests dared not disregard this counsel, and for the time they took no open measures against the Saviour. {DA 167.2}

Question: Boys & girls, who was Nicodemus? And, what had roused the determined hatred of the priests and rulers?

Answer: He was highly educated and possessed talents of no ordinary character, and he was an honored member of the national council. And Christ's exercise of authority in the cleansing of the temple; they feared the power of this stranger. Such boldness on the part of an obscure Galilean was not to be tolerated.

Since hearing Jesus, Nicodemus had anxiously studied the prophecies relating to the Messiah; and the more he searched, the stronger was his conviction that this was the One who was to come. With many others in Israel he had been greatly distressed by the profanation of the temple. He was a witness of the scene when Jesus drove out the buyers and the sellers; he beheld the wonderful manifestation of divine power; he saw the Saviour receiving the poor and healing the sick; he saw their looks of joy, and heard their words of praise; and he could not doubt that Jesus of Nazareth was the Sent of God. {DA 168.1}

He greatly desired an interview with Jesus, but shrank from seeking Him openly. It would be too humiliating for a ruler of the Jews to acknowledge himself in sympathy with a teacher as yet so little known. And should his visit come to the knowledge of the Sanhedrin, it would draw upon him their scorn and denunciation. He resolved upon a secret interview, excusing this on the ground that if he were to go openly, others might follow his example. Learning by special inquiry the Saviour's place of retirement in the Mount of Olives, he waited until the city was hushed in slumber, and then sought Him. {DA 168.2}

Question: Boys & girls, how did Nicodemus stronger conviction come about? And why did he shrink from seeking Him (Jesus) openly?

Answer: Since hearing Jesus, Nicodemus had anxiously studied the prophecies relating to the Messiah; and the more he searched, the stronger was his conviction that this was the One who was to come. And, It would be too humiliating for a ruler of the Jews to acknowledge himself in sympathy with a teacher as yet so little known.

In the presence of Christ, Nicodemus felt a strange timidity, which he endeavored to conceal under an air of composure and dignity. "Rabbi," he said, "we know that Thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him." By speaking of Christ's rare gifts as a teacher, and also of His wonderful power to perform miracles, he hoped to pave the way for his interview. His words were designed to express and to invite confidence; but they really expressed unbelief. He did not acknowledge Jesus to be the Messiah, but only a teacher sent from God. {DA 168.3}

Instead of recognizing this salutation, Jesus bent His eyes upon the speaker, as if reading his very soul. In His infinite wisdom He saw before Him a seeker after truth. He knew the object of this visit, and with a desire to deepen the conviction already resting upon His listener's mind, He came directly to the point, saying solemnly, yet kindly, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **John 3:3, margin.** {DA 168.4}

Question: Boys & girls, did Nicodemus acknowledge Jesus to be the Messiah? What point did Jesus make directly, in order to deepen the conviction already resting upon His listener's mind?

Answer: No! but only a teacher sent from God. And, solemnly, yet kindly, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Song: *Let's learn a beautiful Hymnal together dear ones!*

“Ye must be born again,

A ruler once came to Jesus by night
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain,
“Ye must be born again.”

Refrain

*“Ye must be born again,
Ye must be born again,
I verily, verily, say unto thee,
Ye must be born again.”*

Ye children of men, attend to the Word,
So solemnly uttered by Jesus the Lord;
And let not this message to you be in vain,
“Ye must be born again.”

Refrain

O ye who would enter that glorious rest,
And sing with the ransomed the song of the blest,
The life everlasting if ye would obtain,
“Ye must be born again.”

Refrain

A dear one in Heaven thy heart yearns to see,
At the beautiful gate may be watching for thee,
Then list to the note of this solemn refrain,
“Ye must be born again.”

Refrain

Nicodemus had come to the Lord thinking to enter into a discussion with Him, but Jesus laid bare the foundation principles of truth. He said to Nicodemus, It is not theoretical knowledge you need so much as spiritual regeneration. You need not to have your curiosity satisfied, but to **have a new heart.** You must receive a new life from above before you can appreciate heavenly things. Until this change takes place, making all things new, it will result in no saving good for you to discuss with Me My authority or My mission. {DA 171.1}

Nicodemus had heard the preaching of John the Baptist concerning repentance and baptism, and pointing the people to One who should baptize with the Holy Spirit. He himself had felt that there was a lack of spirituality among the Jews, that, to a great degree, they were controlled by bigotry and worldly ambition. He had hoped for a better state of things at the Messiah's coming. Yet the heart-searching message of the Baptist had failed to work in him conviction of sin. He was a strict Pharisee, and prided himself on his good works. He was widely esteemed for his benevolence and his liberality in sustaining the temple service, and he felt secure of the favor of God. He was startled at the thought of a kingdom too pure for him to see in his present state. {DA 171.2}

Question: Boys & girls, what did Jesus lay bare as the foundation principles of truth to Nicodemus?

Answer: That, It is not theoretical knowledge you need so much as spiritual regeneration. He needs not to have his curiosity satisfied, but to **have a new heart.**

Song: *Let's learn a scripture song together dear ones about how we can receive a **New Heart!***

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (KJV)

Margins...verses 28 & 24:27

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

And they shall know that I [am] the Lord.

The figure of the new birth, which Jesus had used, was not wholly unfamiliar to Nicodemus. Converts from heathenism to the faith of Israel were often compared to children just born. Therefore he must have perceived that the words of Christ were not to be taken in a literal sense. But by virtue of his birth as an Israelite he regarded himself as sure of a place in the kingdom of God. He felt that he needed no change. Hence his surprise at the Saviour's words. He was irritated by their close application to himself. The pride of the Pharisee was struggling against the honest desire of the seeker after truth. He wondered that Christ should speak to him as He did, not respecting his position as ruler in Israel. {DA 171.3}

Question: Boys & girls, what made Nicodemus regard himself as sure of a place in the kingdom of God? And what was struggling against the honest desire of the seeker after truth?

Answer: By virtue of his birth as an Israelite, He felt that he needed no change. And the pride of the Pharisee he wondered that Christ should speak to him as He did, not respecting his position as ruler in Israel.

Next Week: We will continue with part 2 in our study entitle, "**Nicodemus**" of our study book!

Closing Prayer – request one of the little ones or mommies or daddies to give prayer.

Next Sabbath: Chapter 17 "**Nicodemus**", Sabbath **August 9, 2014.**

Have a Blessed Sabbath dear one, and enjoy your activities. God Bless!
Children Sabbath School
Lesson #87



John 3:3 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Word Search Puzzle

N Y I Y E M K T E D M V E S M T C S L C
A O X N U N A N E R C P G T O T U U A O
E T I S T L E N A C H E A U U I R M C N
L P V S E E I R O R L N D B N M I E I V
I K E N S M R N A P H E N B T I O D T I
L E T R R U F V O Z T S O O M D S O E C
A S R E I I C R I A A R B R E I I C R T
G M T U D L D S R E A N V N S T T I O I
S E O E C I O E I B W M U N S Y Y N E O
D L N D N S L U B D M N T E I U Y M H N
C C A A E O B I S X C A I S A K F A T R
E A R I T R I O L I V E S S H S G U H E
D Y U K N N A T A C A L A M I T I E S B
Z W G T N O I T A T U L A S E L E E V M
M L P G I L I D I N S A N H E D R I N U
R E P R O O F S J O A L A N O I T A N L
Y U H L N Z N W L V N F H E A T H E N S
N O I T A R E N E G E R O L I C N U O C
Y R I U Q N I P A H P O R R C J C X A W
C O N C E A L Y T I N G I D P Y I X Z S

BONDAGE
CALAMITIES
CAUTION
CONCEAL
CONFIDENCE
CONVICTION
COUNCIL
CURIOSITY
DENUNCIATION
DETERMINED

DIGNITY
DISCUSSION
GALILEAN
HEATHEN
INQUIRY
INTERVIEW
MESSIAH
MODERATION
MOUNT
NATIONAL

NAZARENE
NICODEMUS
OBSCURE
OLIVES
ORDINARY
PERILOUS
PROFANATION
RABBI
REGENERATION
REPROOFS

SALUTATION
SANHEDRIN
SHRANK
SLAIN
SLUMBER
STUBBORNNESS
TALENTS
THEORETICAL
TIMIDITY
TOLERATED

40 of 40 words were placed into the puzzle.

Activities Answer Key

Word Search Puzzle Solution

N + I + E + K T + D + + E S M + C S L C
 A O + N + N A N E + + + G T O T U U A O
 E + I + T L E N A C + + A U U I R M C N
 L P + S E E I R O R + + D B N M I E I V
 I + E N S M R N A + H E N B T I O D T I
 L E T R R U F V O Z T S O O M D S O E C
 A S R E I I C R I A A R B R E I I C R T
 G M T U D L D S R E A N + N S T T I O I
 S E O E C I O E I B W + U N S Y Y N E O
 D L N D N S L U B D + N + E I + + + H N
 C C A A E O B I S + C + + S A + + + T R
 E A R I T R I O L I V E S S H + + + + E
 + Y U + N + A T A C A L A M I T I E S B
 + + + T N O I T A T U L A S + + + + M
 + + + + I + I + I N S A N H E D R I N U
 R E P R O O F S + O A L A N O I T A N L
 + + + + N + N + + + N F H E A T H E N S
 N O I T A R E N E G E R O L I C N U O C
 Y R I U Q N I + + + + + R + + + + +
 C O N C E A L Y T I N G I D P + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

BONDAGE (13, 7, N)
 CALAMITIES (10, 13, E)
 CAUTION (1, 11, SE)
 CONCEAL (1, 20, E)
 CONFIDENCE (10, 3, SW)
 CONVICTION (20, 1, S)
 COUNCIL (20, 18, W)
 CURIOSITY (17, 1, S)
 DENUNCIATION (16, 6, SW)
 DETERMINED (1, 10, NE)

DIGNITY (14, 20, W)
 DISCUSSION (10, 10, NW)
 GALILEAN (1, 8, N)
 HEATHEN (13, 17, E)
 INQUIRY (7, 19, W)
 INTERVIEW (3, 1, SE)
 MESSIAH (15, 6, S)
 MODERATION (2, 8, SE)
 MOUNT (15, 1, S)
 NATIONAL (19, 16, W)

NAZARENE (12, 8, NW)
 NICODEMUS (18, 9, N)
 OBSCURE (8, 12, NW)
 OLIVES (8, 12, E)
 ORDINARY (9, 6, SW)
 PERILOUS (2, 4, SE)
 PROFANATION (15, 20, NW)
 RABBI (12, 7, SW)
 REGENERATION (12, 18, W)
 REPROOFS (1, 16, E)

SALUTATION (14, 14, W)
 SANHEDRIN (11, 15, E)
 SHRANK (12, 6, NW)
 SLAIN (1, 9, SE)
 SLUMBER (20, 17, N)
 STUBBORNNESS (14, 1, S)
 TALENTS (8, 1, SW)
 THEORETICAL (19, 11, N)
 TIMIDITY (16, 2, S)
 TOLERATED (5, 12, NE)

40 of 40 words were placed into the puzzle.

Cryptogram Puzzles

Solution

The final completed cryptogram puzzle #1 verses

Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV)

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Solution

The final completed cryptogram puzzle #2 verses

Ezekiel 36:27 (KJV)

And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

Double Puzzle

Solution

For the final scramble double words puzzle in page #7

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. CURIOSITY | 11. SECURE |
| 2. SATISFIED | 12. UNFAMILIAR |
| 3. APPRECIATE | 13. CONVERTS |
| 4. BAPTIZE | 14. HEATHENISM |
| 5. BIGOTRY | 15. LITERAL |
| 6. AMBITION | 16. ISRAELITE |
| 7. STRICT | 17. PRIDE |
| 8. PHARISEE | 18. HONEST |
| 9. BENEVOLENCE | 19. WOMB |
| 10. LIBERALITY | 20. JUDGE |

The Double Puzzle Final Message

Solution

For the final message double puzzle phrase in page #7

John 3:3 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.