

In God's hands - God answers our honest questions

We often ask lots of questions, at home and at school, but do we have questions that we want to ask God? In our story today we hear about someone who had a lot of questions to ask Jesus.



Watch our video https://youtu.be/ZrcF_IdpORM

Read the story of Nicodemus, which you can find in the Bible in John 3:1-21 or this 'synopsis' from Scripture Union:

Nicodemus asked Jesus if God had sent him, because he knew that Jesus had done some amazing things that only God could help him with. Jesus explained that to understand all of the things he was doing Nicodemus needed to be born again. Nicodemus couldn't understand what Jesus had just said: he really didn't know how to be born a second time! Jesus explained that being born again isn't like being born as a small baby, but it is like having a new start with God. God's Spirit gives us the new life when we are born again. We can't see the Spirit but it can really change us from the inside. Nicodemus still didn't understand what Jesus was saying, and Jesus was amazed that even though Nicodemus was such an important teacher he still had to ask lots of questions. He told Nicodemus that he would never understand things that happen in heaven, if he couldn't understand things that happened on earth. The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus to help others to believe, and that God loves the world so much! For Nicodemus, and for everyone, God sent his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will never die but will live for ever with him.

Ask: I wonder what you find most surprising about this encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus?

I wonder why Nicodemus went to find Jesus in the middle of the night?

Nicodemus was an important man who knew lots about laws and rules, I wonder why you think he wanted to speak to Jesus?

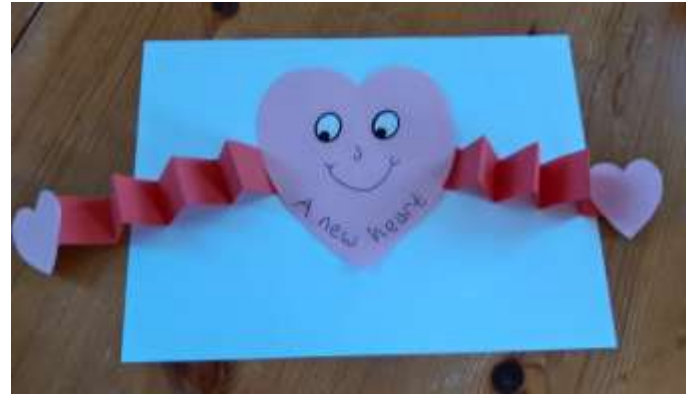
I wonder what you think God might be saying to you through this story?

Saying sorry: In today's story, Nicodemus learns how to make a fresh start with God. And we can make a fresh start too! You will need paper, a pencil and an eraser. Write or draw things that you are sorry for on the paper. Then rub out your words or picture and thank God that he forgives us and we can start all over again whenever we need to.

Make a reminder of the story. Cut out a large heart and two small hearts and two strips from coloured paper.

'Concertina' the strips of paper and stick a small heart on the end of each one.

Stick the other ends under the bigger heart and stick the heart on some paper.



Draw a face on the heart. Write some words on the heart or the paper - maybe words that God has spoken to you through the story or you could write 'a new heart' to remind you that God helps us to change. This heart is like a big hug from God who loves us so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for us!

Make a collage - Think about the questions you want to ask God or that you think other people might have about God?

Using pictures from newspapers and magazines, make a collage with lots of different sorts of people clustered around a cross. Draw speech bubbles from their mouths with the questions you thought of inside them.

As you make your collage think of how these questions might be answered. Who could you ask these questions to? Or might you find the answers in the Bible? Or when you pray, ask God the questions and listen for the answers - I wonder how he might answer you? Sometimes God might use us to answer other people's questions too!

Memory verse - *'Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they will eat with me.'* Revelation 3:20

Learn the verse by making up actions for the key words: listen, stand, knock, hear, open, eat, with me.

