

This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

John 10:9

I (Jesus) am the door.

If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.

Who is the door? _____

Anyone who enters through Jesus will be _____

*Italic added



1. Nicodemus was ruler (leader) of the Jews who went to see Jesus *(in the morning, at noon, at night)*.
2. Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be *(a hard worker, a good man, born again)* if you want to go to heaven.
3. Jesus said the Son of Man was going to (look at the snake on the pole, be lifted up like the snake on the pole).

Name _____

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

John 3:1-18; Numbers 21:4-9



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When God made us He gave us a body. Bodies are the outside that people can see and feel.

But God also made us with a soul and spirit that no one can see or touch. Our soul is the part of us that can think and reason, love people, feel joy and sadness and anger, communicate with others, and make choices. Our spirit is that part of us that is able to know and love God. It is that part where God wants to live. We call the inside part of you—your soul and spirit—the real you. God is the only one who sees and knows the real you.

Our physical bodies will not live forever. They get sick and can be injured; they grow old and someday will die. But the soul and spirit do not die with the body; the real you goes on living. Since no one can live on this earth without a body, God has prepared another home called heaven for those who believe in Him.

The Bible does not tell us where heaven is or very much about it, but we know that God the Father and Jesus live there. There is no sin in heaven. Just as we cannot live on this earth without the right kind of earthly life—physical life, we can't live in heaven without the right kind of life. God want all of us to go and live with Him someday, but to get there we must believe in Him.

One day, Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem celebrating the Passover. Whenever Jesus was teaching the people around Him, the Jewish religious leaders, called Pharisees, would gather to hear Him also. The Pharisees studied the laws of Moses and were very careful to see that those laws were kept, as well as many laws of their own.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee of high position and authority in Jerusalem. He had heard Jesus teaching the people, and he had seen some of the miracles Jesus had performed. He wanted to talk with Jesus alone.

During the day Jesus was busy preaching and teaching and doing things for others. Because there were great crowds of people wherever Jesus went, Nicodemus came to see Him one night after dark, when all the crowds had returned to their homes. Most of the Pharisees had closed their hearts and minds to Jesus and would not believe in Him. But Nicodemus wanted to learn from Him.

Nicodemus said to Jesus, “We know You are a teacher from God. No one could do the miracles You do unless God is with him.”

Because Jesus is the Son of God, He knew what Nicodemus was thinking. Jesus replied, “Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said, “I don't understand what You are saying. You don't mean that a grown man has to be born as a baby again, do You?”

Jesus answered, “I mean that you must have heavenly life before you can come into God's kingdom. This life comes from God. You can't get it by yourself.

To help Nicodemus understand, Jesus reminded him of something that had happened hundreds of years before, when the Israelites were on their way from Egypt to Palestine.

Because of their sin, God had sent serpents or snakes into their camp. The Bible says they were poisonous snakes. They bit the people, and many of them died from the snakebites. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned. Pray to God for us and ask Him to take away the snakes.”

Moses prayed for the people, and God told him what he should do. He made a snake out of metal (brass) and put it on a pole. Then he raised the pole high above the people in the center of the camp. He sent word throughout the camp, “If you have been bitten and want to be cured, just look up at this brass snake on the pole. You don't have to touch it. All you have to do is look at it and you will be healed.” If they did not look, they died from the snakebites. All those who believed what Moses said and looked at the snake were healed immediately. None of them died.

Jesus used that familiar story to show what He would do to save people from their sins. He explained to Nicodemus that He would be lifted up on a pole just like that brass snake—He would die on a cross to take the punishment for the sins of the world, and He would give eternal life to those who believed in Him.