



# connecting church and home

This upcoming Sunday, the Treasure Story will focus on a man who came to Jesus under the veil of night. Nicodemus was not only a Pharisee (one who kept the Law in order to find favor with God) but a member of the Sanhedrin, a “ruler of the Jews” (John 3:1, 10). This man of authority came to Jesus as one who was a good, moral man but Jesus said that Nicodemus would “not see the kingdom of heaven unless he was born again.” In order for Nicodemus to receive this new birth, it would require faith and not head knowledge.

We do not know if Nicodemus became a believer or not, but he is mentioned two other times in the Gospel of John. In chapter seven, we see Nicodemus standing up for Jesus when the Sanhedrin (his peers) wanted Jesus arrested. Nicodemus asks, “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” (John 7:51) After Jesus’ death, we see Nicodemus again risking his reputation and rank by being one of the first willing to care for the body of the man crucified for being the Christ: “Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight” (John 19:39).

## connect

Read John 3:1-21 to your family. Many times children believe that Christianity is a long list of rules or a checklist of “do’s and don’ts.” Focus on verses 14-21. Jesus was taking Nicodemus’ faith beyond himself and the things he controlled (a man-centered faith). He was teaching Nicodemus that he would have to see Jesus as the Christ, the one who would be lifted up as God’s Son so that “those who believe in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:16). Conclude your family’s discussion by asking these questions: What does this type of belief look like in us as individuals and as a family? How do we as a family need to live our lives with faith?

**Treasure Verse:** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

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**“Your parenting affects more than your child’s here and now. It affects generations to come and their eternity.”**  
 – Steve Wright and Chris Graves, *ApParent Privilege*, pg. 94  
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**Family Discipleship**  
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