
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 11, Bible Truth 3

The Case of the Surprising, Second Birthday John 3

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. To the country, to the cities, went Jesus and His disciples. And everywhere they went, people came and were amazed. "This Jesus is not like any other teacher. He teaches us what God is really like. He heals sick people with just His words, by God's power," they exclaimed.
2. Someone ELSE at work, as Jesus taught about God and did amazing things: God, the Holy Spirit! He worked in the hearts of many, helping them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as God's Son, the Savior.
3. God forgave their sins and made them His people. Now, they could know and love God in their hearts. And one day, they would go live with Him, face-to-face forever. What a wonderful thing the Holy Spirit was doing in these people as they listened to Jesus!
4. An important teacher of God's Word named Nicodemus came to hear to Jesus. He may have been a teacher, but he felt like a learner when he listened to Jesus, he was so amazed. "No one can teach or do the things Jesus does unless he was sent by God," Nicodemus thought.
5. But what amazed Nicodemus most of all was how people changed when they believed in Jesus. They were turning from their sins and living for God! How could this be? Nicodemus had to know more. So, one night, Nicodemus went to see Jesus and ask Him his questions.
6. "No one can become one of God's people and part of His kingdom unless they are born again," Jesus told Nicodemus. Nicodemus was confused. "Born again? Like a baby from a mother? How? I'm a full-grown man. I don't understand," Nicodemus told Jesus.
7. "This is a new birth in your HEART, not in your body," Jesus explained. "The Holy Spirit works in your heart, helping you turn away from disobeying God. He helps you love God and trust in Me as your Savior. He makes you a new person on the inside, like being born again," Jesus said.
8. "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked, still trying to understand. "Nicodemus, you are one of the best teachers of God's Word, yet you don't understand?" Jesus replied. "This is why God has sent Me, His Son, from heaven."
9. "For God loved the world so much that He sent Me to be the Savior. Whoever believes in Me won't be punished by God for their sins, but have eternal life," Jesus said. "I will be lifted up on the cross to pay for their sins. They will be God's people and will live with Him forever," Jesus explained.
10. Nicodemus had much to think about that night. Jesus had taught him new things he had never understood before: the Holy Spirit works inside people, helping them believe in Jesus as their Savior and giving them new hearts as God's people. What big ideas!
11. Did the Holy Spirit work in Nicodemus' heart? Did he trust in Jesus as his Savior? It seems so. We know Nicodemus stood up against Jesus' enemies. And, he helped bury Jesus' body, when Jesus died. Some say, Jesus' enemies made Nicodemus stop teaching because he was Jesus' follower.
12. But there's something I DO know. We can ask God's Holy Spirit to work in OUR hearts right now. He can help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we can become God's people and enjoy Him forever. God loves to answer this prayer!