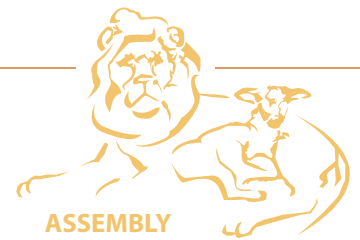


NICODEMUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 3:1-21



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

BIBLE MEMORY

There is perhaps no more memorized verse in the whole Bible than John 3:16. Take time in the class to recite it and help the children memorize it.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read John 8:12 where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." Read again John 3:19-21 where Jesus teaches Nicodemus about the light.

Explain to the children that the Bible compares God to light and wickedness to darkness. Nicodemus came in the darkness not wanting anyone to see him with Jesus.

Jesus, on the other hand, was trying to teach us that anyone who truly follows Him must come into the light. That is, they should let their faith in Jesus be known.

Talk to the children about darkness and why it is a good description of sin (i.e. that darkness is dangerous, scary, and cold) while the light is bright, glorious, and warm.

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TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

Supplies

dark sheet

Explain to the children that they are the shadows of sin in the darkness.

Turn off the classroom lights and the children should lurk about and move their arms and hands in scary ways.

Place a teacher in the center of the room to represent God and the light. Cover him with a dark sheet. Another teacher pulls the sheet away while a helper turns on the light. Have the children scurry away from the light to look for a dark place to hide. Tell them to look for shadows of any kind to try to hide in.

When the exercise is over, explain to them that not only is God light but that in Him there is no darkness at all. Share with them how amazing it is that a God who is described as light would come to die for sinful wicked men who are described as darkness.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

John 3:16 is the first half of the Gospel. Why the first half? Because, this passage alone does not explain what it means that God gave His Son.

Make sure that you connect the dots for the children that God gave His Son to die. Jesus died on the cross for our sin so that we might be forgiven. It is not enough to see Jesus as a good teacher; we must be born again. The work of the Spirit in making us born again is only possible because our sins were punished in Christ.

If Jesus had only been a good teacher, it leaves us to take our own punishment for our sin. We cannot separate John 3:16 out of the Bible as if it declares the whole Gospel. John does make one thing clear, salvation is about what God does, not what we do. Only God can make a person born again.

