



## Message 2- Nicodemus

### Announcements

**Women's Night with Lisa Harper** // Tuesday, April 9 // Food Trucks at 5:00 pm // Event starts at 7:00 pm // Carpool with friends and arrive early to purchase dinner from the area's best food trucks!  
[ChurchoftheKing.com/womensnight](http://ChurchoftheKing.com/womensnight)

### Warm-up

Growing up, how would you describe your view of God? The idea of going to church as a child made you want to:

- a. Do backflips. Yeah, church!
- b. Take a nap. Yawn, church.
- c. Run as far away as you could. Yuck, church!
- d. See what it's about. YOLO, church.

### Overview

Using the New Testament narrative of Nicodemus, a religious leader who seemed to have everything, we answer the age-old question, "How do I get right with God?"

### Word and Application

Last week, we launched the *One to One* series with the woman with the issue of blood and her encounter with Jesus. We answered her question of "how do I get out of the pain I'm in?". Today, we're going to explore the keys to reconciliation with God through Nicodemus' revealing encounter with Jesus.

Let's start by reading this divine appointment in its entirety. **Read John 3:1-7**. As a group, piece together everything you've discovered about Nicodemus within this passage.

We can glean from Scripture that Nicodemus wants to learn from Jesus, what he lacks in his pursuit of God. Jesus' response teaches us three keys to getting right with God.

## How to Get Right with God

### 1. Mere religion is not enough

Although Nicodemus knew the law, he didn't know the Law-Giver. Mere religion is driven by performance, true religion is based upon a relationship with Jesus. Mere religion elevates outward appearances and behavior, while the gospel of grace seeks after our hearts and the motives therein.

**Read Galatians 2:16, Titus 3:5-7, and Romans 3:20.** As a Pharisee, Nicodemus had both privilege and influence in Jewish society. As a religious leader, his understanding of God stemmed from the law and performing the do's and don'ts of the law.

- How would you compare your own search for God in comparison to Nicodemus?
- What made you open to the message of the gospel? Similarly, if you could travel back in time to tell yourself one thing about the character of God, what would it be?

### 2. The invitation from Jesus

**Read John 3:3-7 again.** In this passage, Jesus issues both a command and an invitation to Nicodemus to enter into a true relationship with the One True God. What does it mean to you personally that God *initiated* your rescue and salvation?

There are several additional Bible verses which also point to the necessity of being *born again*.

**Read 1 Peter 1:22-25, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Colossians 2:13.** Why might this be a difficult truth to receive? Ask for a volunteer within the group to share how he or she would explain to a friend (or stranger) what it means to be *born again*?

### 3. One thing is required

You have to believe what Jesus did on the cross. You have to believe, trust, receive and accept that Christ washed away all of our sin and failure on the cross.

**Read John 3:16-17, Romans 10:9-10, John 1:12-13 and John 3:36.** Identify the common theme in these passages.

- Although the Scriptures are clear that salvation comes from believing, why do some people struggle with the *simplicity* of the gospel message? What counsel would you give that person?
- As believers, we have no hesitation in trusting God for our salvation; however, we are challenged to believe His promises in other areas. In what areas of your life is God asking you to develop the same level of belief as your salvation?

## Life Challenge

We all have someone in our lives like Nicodemus, who need an encounter with Jesus. Invite that individual to church, to your small group, to Men's or Women's Night, or an Easter service. Like Jesus reached out to you, extend the invitation.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, I ask You to open my spiritual eyes to see those who, like Nicodemus, want to get right with You but don't know how. Soften their hearts, give me a spirit of boldness, and an opportunity to share what you have done in my life and how you died on the cross to give them abundant life. Pray for the specific needs of the group.