### Elementary Lesson 3: Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (Mar. 19/20)

**Bible Point:** Jesus gives us eternal life.

**Key Verse:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

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<tr>
<th>Pre Activity</th>
<th>10 min</th>
<th><strong>Everyone Starting in Their Own Rooms</strong></th>
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<td><strong>First 5/10 Min:</strong></td>
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<td>Welcome children to the classroom as they arrive. option--use a ball as a tool to pass around the circle; the person with the ball answers the question and asks the next question. Make it a game. Ask children one fun thing that they did this past week or weekend. Ask what they remember from last week’s lesson.</td>
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<td><strong>Discuss the Question of the Day:</strong> What is the best gift that you have ever received?</td>
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<td>Go to room 203 at 10 after the hour for large group worship and lesson.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>15 min</th>
<th><strong>WORSHIP:</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Worship Leader (WL):</strong> Welcome children and state the lesson name and bible point. <strong>Open in prayer.</strong> Begin worship by getting kids excited! (perhaps some stretches to prepare for dancing!)</td>
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<td><strong>Worship:</strong></td>
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<td>1. Happy Day</td>
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<td>2. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made</td>
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<td>When songs are completed, have the kids sit with their classes and teacher. (teachers joining the kids; preferably sitting near those that are more quick to distract)</td>
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<td><strong>TITHING:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lesson Leader (LL):</strong> Now it is time to pass the tithing bucket! Remember, we now do this together because of its importance and so that we can share this experience. Just like our singing, tithing is another form of loving the Lord. Question: Can anyone explain why we tithe and what it means to tithe?</td>
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<th>Lesson</th>
<th>15 - 20 min</th>
<th><strong>LARGE GROUP LESSON:</strong></th>
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<td><strong>LL:</strong> Before we begin our lesson today, let’s let each small group share some</td>
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answers for the question of the day: “What is the best gift that you have ever received?"

LL: “Wow! Those are some good answers; it can feel really good to receive gifts from others, not just because we like the actual gift, but because it shows how much that person cares for us. Today we are going to talk about the greatest gift of all: we are going to talk about how Jesus gives us eternal life.

**Activity Demonstration: Born Again**

*Prep:* mix a solution of bleach and detergent. Add one quarter cup of bleach to a bowl of water with a small amount of dish detergent. Set next to white wash-clothe and washable markers.

LL: How many of you like doing crazy science experiments at school? Yeah?! Well, we want to try one here today. I am going to write all over this wash-clothe. I think we have spent a fair amount of time establishing that we all sin, right? So, let’s write down some of those sins on this wash-clothe.

Question: Who can tell me something that we might do in our lives that is wrong? (have kids raise their hands and right down a number of answers)

LL: Great answers! I appreciate your honesty in answering that question. Sometimes it can be hard to admit that we are not always perfect!

Question: How are we like this clothe in our own lives? (we aren’t clean because of all of our sins)

Question: What do you think we could do to make this wash-clothe clean again? (wash it, scrub it really good, etc.)

Wash the clothe in the bleach solution (with rubber gloves on) to show the kids the results of their suggestions.

LL: Look at our wash-clothe; it is just like it is brand new!

Question: How can our lives change and become clean like the clothe after we dip it in water? (we can ask Jesus to forgive our sins; we can believe in Jesus; we can say we’re sorry for all the bad things we’ve done)

LL: Isn’t it amazing how Jesus can change our lives so completely?! Today we are going to learn about a man named Nicodemus and how Jesus changed his life. Jesus explained to him that he must be ‘born again’ or changed, to become like new so that he could have eternal life and live with God in heaven forever. We’ll learn that Jesus gives us eternal life.

**Being Nicodemus**

LL: As I tell you our story about Jesus talking to Nicodemus from the book of John 3:1-17. I want you put yourselves in Nicodemus’ shoes. Ok? So lets
When Jesus was on earth, Nicodemus came to him and asked what he was teaching. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which means he belonged to a group of people that didn’t like Jesus. They didn’t like what Jesus was teaching. But Nicodemus was different: he thought that maybe Jesus was right and teaching the truth. He went to Jesus at night so that no one would know he was talking to Jesus. He might have been afraid that other Pharisees would be angry.

Let’s sneak around the room with the lights off, just like Nicodemus seeking Jesus in the night. Remember to be really quiet! (let kids sneak around for a couple of seconds, then quietly return to their seats.)

Nicodemus told Jesus that he believed that Jesus was from God. He realized that only God could do the wonderful things that Jesus did. Jesus told Nicodemus that to become part of God’s family, he needed to become ‘born again.’ He was surprised and confused. Show me your best confused faces. Would you believe Jesus was telling the truth? (yes because he is Jesus, but I would want to know what he meant)

Nicodemus needed to accept Jesus’ gift of eternal life to be in God’s family. When Nicodemus discovered that Jesus was offering a gift of eternal life, he was probably really happy. Show me how you celebrate when you receive the best gift ever! (let kids jump up and down and shout, and give high fives; teachers too!)

How amazing that Jesus gives us eternal life. We don’t have to earn it or pay for it. We are going to go back to our rooms and talk a bit more about Nicodemus and God’s gift of eternal life.

Dismiss by grade, the quietest class getting to leave first.

Small Groups
25 min

SMALL GROUPS:

ALL AGES:

What an amazing story about a man that wanted to know God. Question: what would you have done after you talked to Jesus if you
were Nicodemus? (‘d be excited; tell everyone I knew about Jesus; follow Jesus everywhere)

Question: How can we too have eternal life? (believe in Jesus)
Question: How does it feel to know that Jesus gives us eternal life?
(Good; exciting, etc, etc.)

LL: The eternal life Jesus promises us is life forever with him in heaven. Doesn’t that sound wonderful? Our key verse tells us how we can have eternal life.

**Key Verse:**
**PREP:** Write the verse on the blackboard.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

LL: I am going to say a line, then you repeat after me.
(do this repetition a couple of times)

Question: Why did God send Jesus, his only son, to earth? (because God loves us; He wants us to be with him in heaven.)

LL: Jesus died to take the punishment for the bad things we’ve done- he cleanses us of our sins just as we watched the wash-clothe become new again. What a great gift! All we have to do is accept God’s gift by believing in Jesus.
Let’s talk a bit more about Nicodemus.

**K-3** **nd Small Groups** and **4** **th-5** **th Small Groups:**

Teacher: Nicodemus had a lot of different emotions throughout our story. On this worksheet, we have four different blank faces (or circles that you will make faces!), with specific verses from our story just above them. We are going to read through the story and when we read each set of verses, we want you to draw the face with the emotion that you think he was feeling.

*Teachers read for younger students; for older students, split up the readings and concentrate the conversation on their feelings about the conversation taking place between Nicodemus and Jesus.*

Read: John 3:1-4
Question: How do you think Nicodemus felt? (probably confused)
Teacher: You’re probably right! Let’s draw confused looking faces.

Read: John 3:5-9
Question: Again, how was Nicodemus feeling? (still, confused, but seeking
the truth from Jesus)
Teacher: Again, you’re probably right! Let’s draw face that show this continued confusion, but hope.

Read: John 3:10-17
Question: after hearing this, what do you think Nicodemus felt? (excited; thrilled; happy; peaceful)
Teacher: great answers! I think this last emotion is a great face to draw.

All Ages: Extra Activity (4-5th grade teachers may decide to do this before the first activity with Nicodemus’ emotions)

Teacher: Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life-

Question: What do you think eternal life is? (living forever; living in heaven with God)
Question: How can we have eternal life? (by believing in Jesus; by believing that Jesus dies for our sins; by believing that Jesus is God’s Son.)

Teacher: We are going to try to visually describe what eternal life is. Split into groups of three and give each group a large piece of paper to draw on.

Question: How do you feel about being able to have eternal life? (good; excited; kind of intrigued, because I really don’t know what it will be like)

Teacher: God chose to send his only Son to earth so that we might begin to understand how much He loves us. Through his Son, he has cleansed us of our sins and given us the gift of eternal life with Him.

ALL SMALL GROUPS: Key Verse/Prayer

Key Verse
Let’s remind ourselves of the key verse.
Question: Does anyone remember John 3:16 yet?
Question: How can we try to memorize it as a group?
(repetition, turn into song, write it, turn it into pictures.) Repeat the verse one more time together!

Prayer
Be intentional about prayer!

Ask: Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? Isn’t it wonderful to know you will live with Jesus forever? Is there someone in your life we can pray for that doesn’t know Jesus?

Take prayer requests from the children. Write them down and then repeat
them in summary to the group before you pray. Pray as a group for one another (popcorn prayer, or in order around the circle, or have 2 volunteers- 1 opens and 1 closes)