

Jesus Seeks the Lost



MEMORY VERSE: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:10

In lesson 2, we learned that Jesus came to save the lost. In this lesson, we will see two examples of when Jesus meets with, loves and teaches the lost (sinners).



John 3:1-6 Jesus Loves the Important Religious Leaders

Nicodemus was a well-educated, wealthy, and powerful Jewish religious leader. He knew God's law inside and out and was a rule follower. He was curious and genuinely searching about Jesus and His teachings, so he approached Jesus one night.

1. Read John 3:1-3. What do you learn about Nicodemus? What did Nicodemus think he knew about Jesus?
2. Jesus told Nicodemus that his background/knowledge were not enough to earn him a place in God's Kingdom. Read verses 3-6. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he needed to do to be part of God's Kingdom?
3. When we confess that we are sinners and need a savior - Jesus, a very real and powerful thing happens to us. Review the definition of "born again." Have you been born again? If so, what changes do you see in your life after choosing to follow Jesus?



John 4:7, 9-15, 27-30 Jesus Loves the Outcasts

Jesus goes to a well to find a Samaritan woman who was in many ways the opposite of Nicodemus. She did not know God's law and was not a rule follower. She had had 5 husbands, was living with another man, and was an outcast. She had no idea who Jesus was, but Jesus knew her past and He came for her!

4. What does Jesus ask this woman for? What is her response? vv. 7, 9
5. How does Jesus describe "living water?" How does the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus? vv. 10-15
6. What does the Samaritan woman do? What happens? vv. 27-30



Jesus Came for Everyone

7. How are Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman similar? How are they different? Who do you relate with more and why?
8. Jesus' conversations with these two are very confusing, what do you think He is trying to communicate to both of them?
9. Jesus came for everyone! He can save us no matter our background or circumstances. We are all sinners and need Jesus! How does this give you hope and encouragement?
10. After the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus, she was quick to spread the news of her time with Jesus, and through her testimony many came to believe in Him. What do you learn about sharing with others what Jesus is doing in your life?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

This story in John chapter 3 shows us that even religious leaders who seem might seem "perfect" are lost and in need of a Savior. John 4 shows us that people who are considered outcasts because of their race, religion, gender, or past are also lost and in need of a Savior. Praise God that Jesus came for EVERYONE! He loves us all and wants each and every one of us to choose His living water, to choose to be born again of the Spirit. Do you believe that Jesus came to seek and save YOU?

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming for the lost. I too am lost without You. Please help me to view others as You view them - as people that You created and love. Help me to be changed into the person you want me to be by Your Holy Spirit. And help me to respond the way the Samaritan woman does- by telling everyone I know about the good news of Jesus' saving grace! Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



When we are born again in the Holy Spirit, we are called to then join Jesus on His mission by sharing what He has been doing in our lives. Where do think you fit into this story today?

Various (NLT)

John 3:1-3: "There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

John 3:4-6: "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" 5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life."

Born again: is a transformation from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive through Christ; the Holy Spirit gives believers a new spiritual birth when they believe that Jesus, God's Son, came to earth and died on the cross to pay the penalty for their sins.

Sin: any action or attitude that falls short of God's perfect standard; separates us from a holy God. When we sin we show contempt for God. Sin keeps the world from working as God originally intended it to.

John 4:7: "Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

John 4:9: "The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

John 4:10-15: "Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? 12 And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

John 4:27-30: "Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" 28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him."

Living water: a symbol for salvation and a true knowledge of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Words of eternal life - not only forever, but life with God now.

Messiah: Jesus Christ. Messiah is a Hebrew word for the person chosen by God to die for our sins. He is the reality to which Israel's entire history points to.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.