

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Jesus Met Nicodemus

*John 3:1-21*

- **Create a nighttime feel:** Turn out the overhead lights and tell the story by lamplight, night-light, or candlelight.
- **Living statues:** Set up a table with two chairs and invite two preschoolers to pose like statues of Jesus and Nicodemus as you tell the Bible story.

**One night**, when Jesus was in the city of Jerusalem, a **man named Nicodemus** (NIK uh DEE muhs) **came to visit Jesus**. Nicodemus was a religious man. He studied God's law and tried very hard to obey it. **Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.**

**"Teacher," Nicodemus said, "we know You came from God. You are a teacher, and You do miracles. God must be with You."**

**Nicodemus was right.** Jesus was a good teacher. Jesus came to earth from heaven, and God was with Him.

**Jesus decided to teach Nicodemus an important lesson. Jesus said, "A person cannot see God's kingdom unless he is born again."**

Nicodemus was confused. He **thought that a person got to go to heaven if he** was good and **obeyed** all of **God's** laws. Jesus' words did not make sense.

"How can anyone be born again when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. **Nicodemus knew that babies are small when they are born. How can a grown man be born again?** That sounded awfully silly.

**Jesus told Nicodemus that when a baby is born, the baby gets life from his parents.** But that kind of life does not last forever. Nobody lives forever. **Jesus said that people can get life from God.** This kind of life means people can live with God forever.

**Nicodemus still did not understand. "How is it possible to get life from God?" Nicodemus asked.**

Jesus told Nicodemus, "When I tell you about things we have seen on earth, you do not believe Me. Will you believe

Me when I tell you about things I have seen in heaven?”

Then Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the time when God’s people disobeyed God and got sick. The people were healed when they looked at the bronze snake on the pole. Jesus said that He would be raised up like the snake so that everyone who believes in Jesus will be healed from their sin and have eternal life.

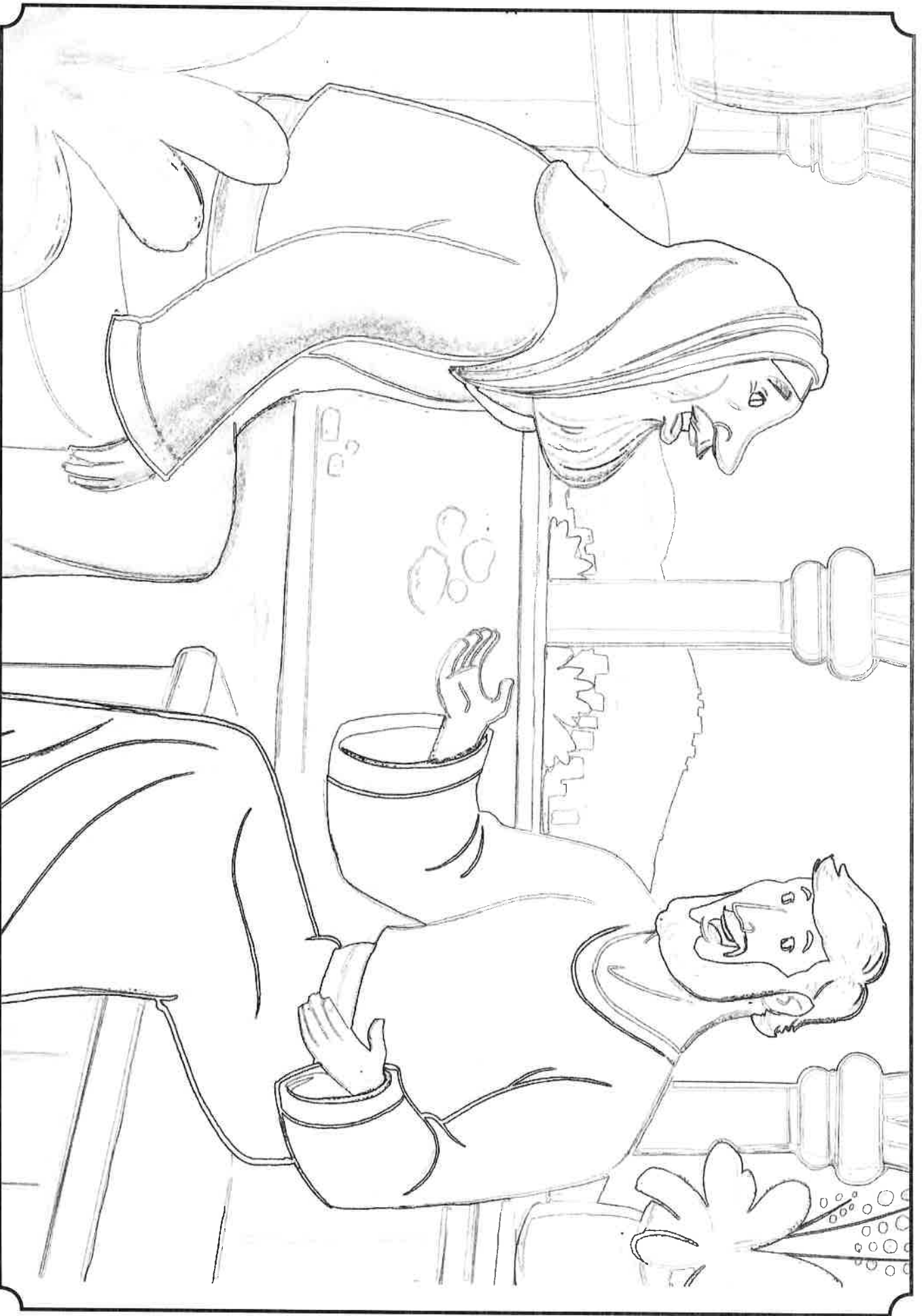
Jesus told Nicodemus about God’s great plan. **Jesus said, “God loved the world so much that He sent His One and Only Son to save the world.** Everyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.” **Jesus** was talking about Himself; **He is God’s One and Only Son!**

*Christ Connection: Nicodemus wanted life with God, but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift. God showed His love by sending His One and Only Son to rescue people from sin. Everyone who believes in Him receives God’s gift of eternal life through Jesus.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Jesus told Nicodemus about God’s plan. Later, Jesus promised to give believers—those who have been born again—the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).



# Jesus Taught Nicodemus About God's Love

## John 3:16 Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

John 3:16a (NIV)

A	N	D	T	B	E	T	H	E	F	M	O	T
T	I	O	N	O	E	U	G	I	A	M	V	H
L	A	I	Q	U	N	O	N	F	O	R	T	A
T	U	H	E	O	R	L	D	E	L	I	Q	T
Z	R	I	T	F	E	U	Y	A	I	T	V	U
L	A	O	R	S	L	O	R	S	I	H	E	R
S	U	M	L	O	V	E	D	T	A	T	I	E
L	I	S	I	T	N	U	A	F	A	C	I	S
U	J	T	A	L	U	A	T	U	E	R	I	T
S	O	N	E	E	G	A	V	E	D	I	T	O
N	H	L	L	C	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	N
N	N	N	S	E	D	S	C	I	L	L	A	E
D	R	E	V	E	X	E	W	O	R	L	D	R

FOR  
GOD  
SO

LOVED  
THE  
WORLD

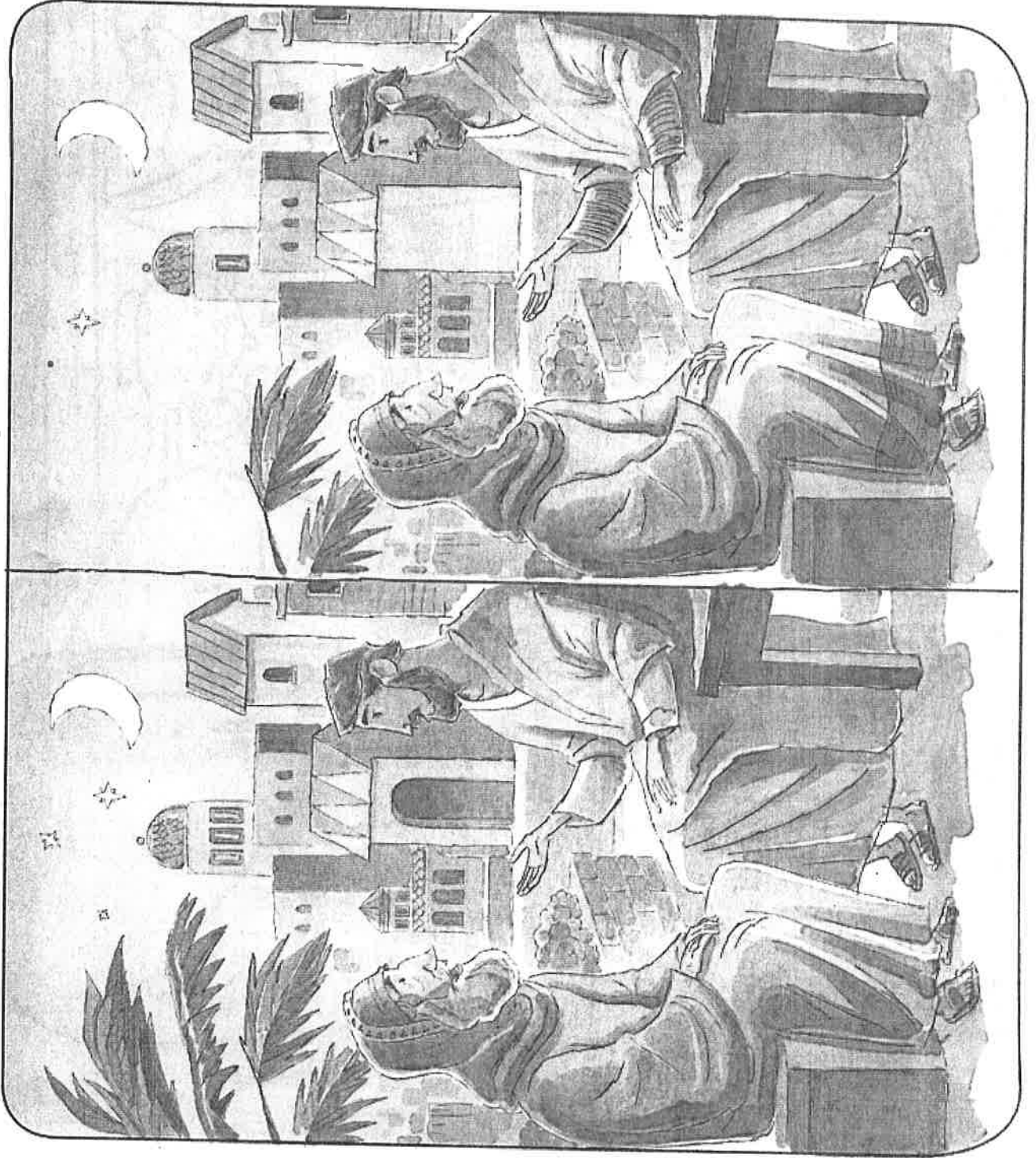
THAT  
HE  
GAVE

HIS  
ONE  
AND

ONLY  
SON  
JOHN

# What Is Different?

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Look at the pictures. Circle the six differences in the second picture.



**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**JESUS MET NICODEMUS**

- Nicodemus went to visit Jesus.
- Nicodemus wanted to know how to have life forever with God.
- Jesus told Nicodemus about God's plan.
- Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant.

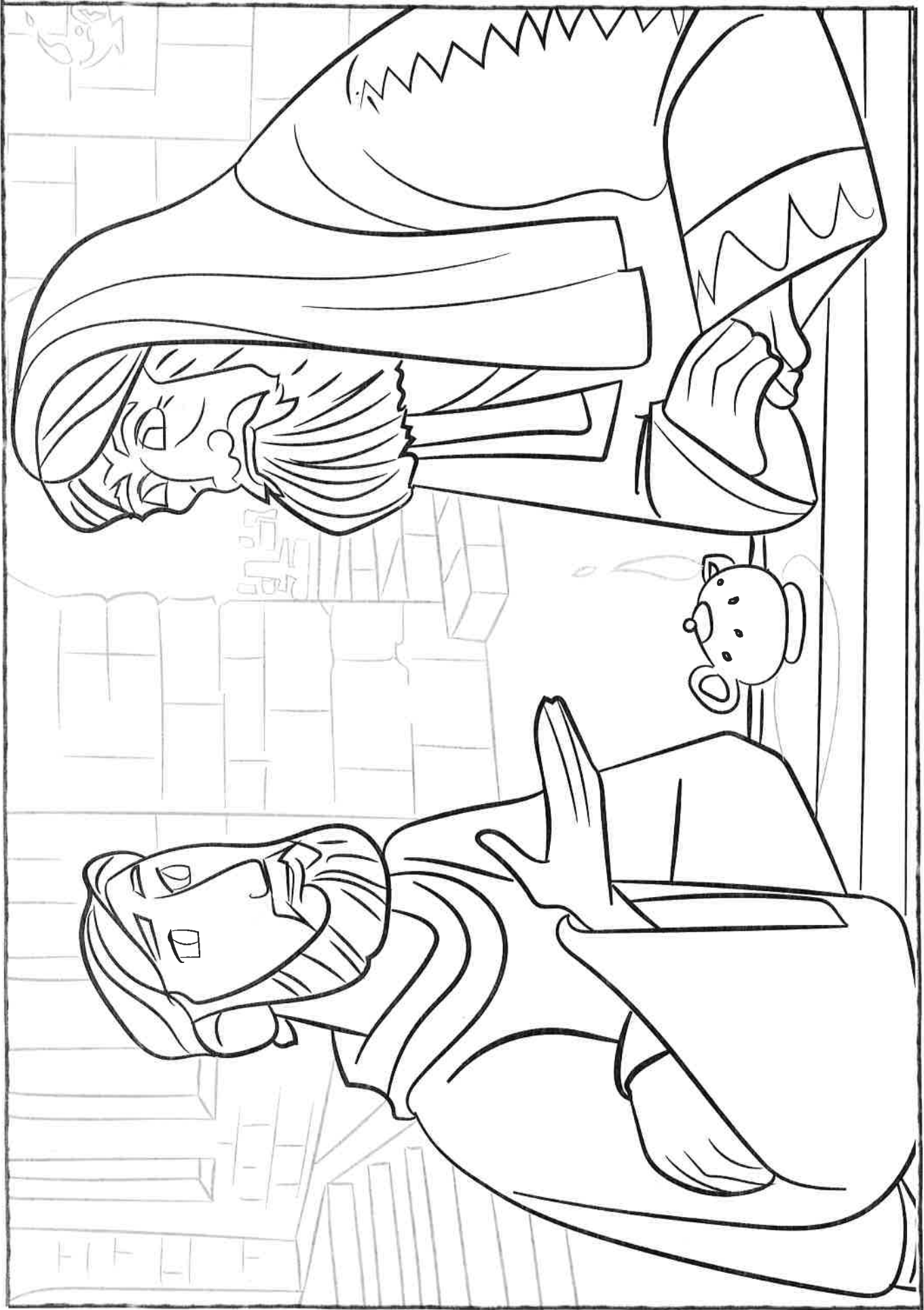
**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Can a person obey all God's laws?
- How do we get life forever with God?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Show a child her baby pictures. Recount her birth story or how she became part of your family.
- Give children a gift they did nothing to earn. Remind children that salvation is a gift we do nothing to earn. God gives this gift because of His great love.

*Preschool Activity Pages*  
Unit 21, Session 1



**MAIN POINT: JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS HE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.**



# Infant Insights

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle all the babies. Put an X over all the grown-ups.



**KEY PASSAGE:** John 14:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**JESUS MET NICODEMUS**

- A religious leader named Nicodemus met Jesus at night.
- Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again.
- Nicodemus was confused; how could an old man be born again?
- Jesus explained that God made it possible by sending His only Son.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Why was Nicodemus confused when Jesus said he must be born again?
- What kind of birth was Jesus talking about?
- How can we be born into God's family?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

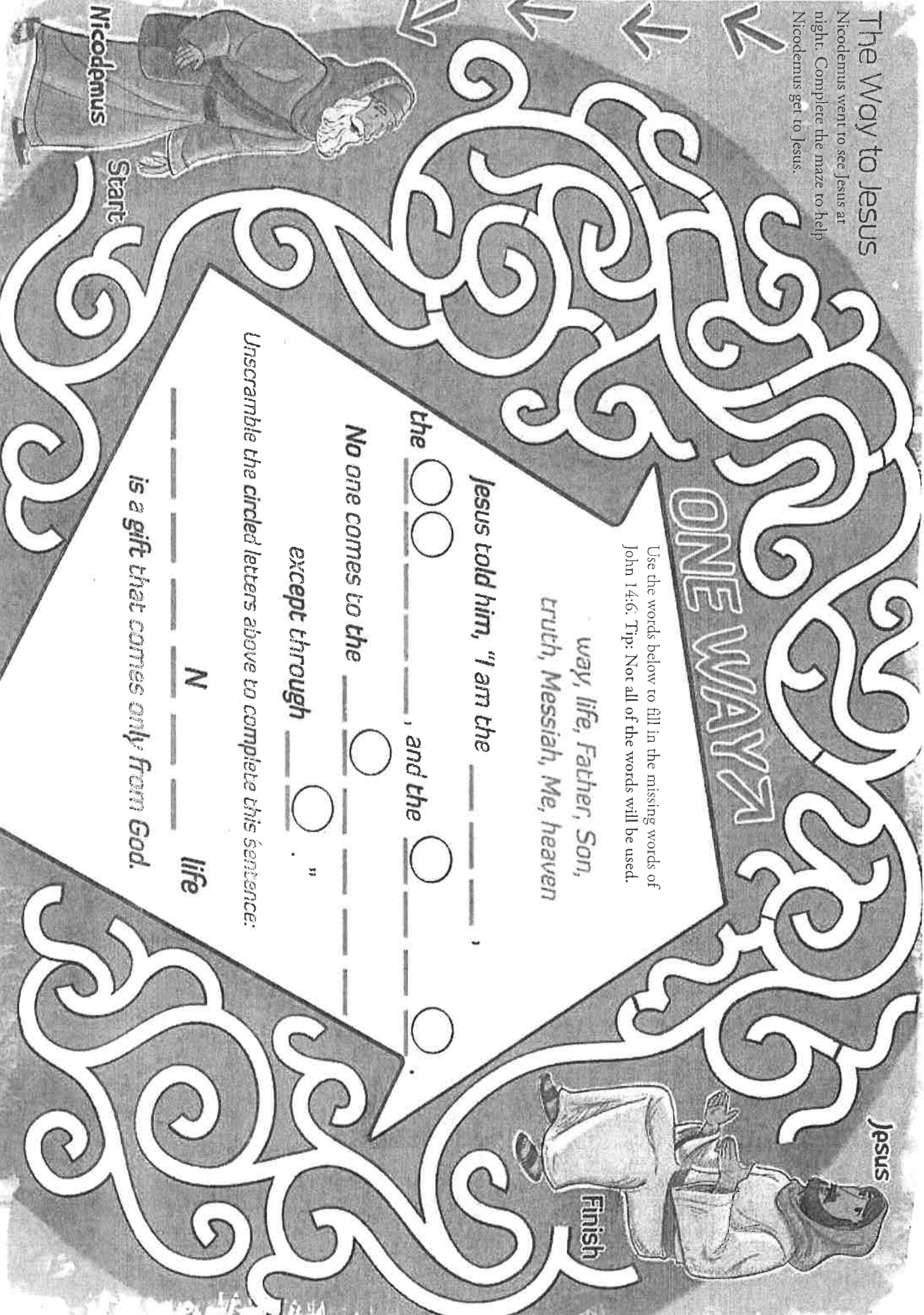
- Track the date of your kids' spiritual birthdays and celebrate them with special dinners or other treats. Remind them what it means to be born again.

# The Way to Jesus

Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night. Complete the maze to help Nicodemus get to Jesus.



Start



Jesus

Finish

ONE WAY

Use the words below to fill in the missing words of John 14:6. Tip: Not all of the words will be used.

way, life, Father, Son, truth, Messiah, Me, heaven

Jesus told him, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_,

the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

No one comes to the \_\_\_\_\_

except through \_\_\_\_\_."

Unscramble the circled letters above to complete this sentence:

N \_\_\_\_\_ life

is a gift that comes only from God.



List things you can do on your own and things you need others to do for you. Is being born again something you can do for yourself?



- FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**
- Why was Nicodemus confused when Jesus said he must be born again?
  - What kind of birth was Jesus talking about?
  - How can we be born into God's family?



## Jesus Met Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

**MAIN POINT: JESUS TOLD NICODEMUS HE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.**

Jesus had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. One night, a religious man came to see Jesus. The man's name was Nicodemus.

"Rabbi," he said, "we know that You have come from God. You are a teacher, and no one could do the miracles You do unless God is with him."

Jesus said, "I tell you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Now Nicodemus was confused. "How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked.

Jesus said, "A man cannot enter God's kingdom unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Jesus said, "Don't be surprised I told you that you must be born again." Nicodemus still didn't understand. "How is this possible?" he asked.

Jesus replied, "No one has ever gone up into heaven, except the Son of Man. He came down from heaven. Do you remember how Moses raised up the bronze snake in the wilderness? Everyone who looked at it was healed. Like that, the Son of Man will be raised up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life."

Then Jesus told Nicodemus about God's great plan. Jesus said, "God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life."

*Christ Connection: Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His One and Only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.*