

WORKSHEET 5-2: NICODEMUS

Reading instructions: For each section 1) do the entire reading, 2) answer as many questions as you can, and 3) check the reading again to answer the remaining questions.

Bible Reading*Jesus and Nicodemus: The New Birth (John 3:1-21)*

1. Nicodemus was a member of what Jewish religious group?
2. Briefly describe who were the Pharisees?
3. In addition to being a Pharisee, what important position did Nicodemus have among the Jews?
4. Why do you think Nicodemus arranged to have his interview with Jesus after dark?
5. What had convinced Nicodemus that Jesus was a teacher “from God”?
6. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus in the first place?
7. What did Nicodemus misunderstand at first?
8. Being born of the spiritual birth is compared to wind (v. 8). What is it about the qualities of wind that are similar to a spiritual birth?
9. What Old Testament incident did Jesus mention to explain the new birth?
10. The famous words from John 3:16 are part of Jesus’ explanation to Nicodemus about the new birth. What does John 3:16 explain about the new birth?

11. According to Jesus (v. 18), when is a person condemned and when does a person have eternal life?
12. What words does Jesus repeat in verses 3, 5, and 11 and what does that phrase mean?

TEXTBOOK READING

Lesson 5-1 (pp. 100-101)

13. What is a rabbi? (See side note on p. 146.)
14. What does it mean to be born again? (See side note on p. 146.).
15. What missionary is mentioned at the beginning of the reading?
16. The book says that just knowing about religion is not enough to be a Christian (p. 101). How does the example of Nicodemus illustrate this?
17. What brings spiritual birth?
18. Why is it a miracle that anyone is saved?
19. How soon after trusting Christ is a person born again?
20. How does a person change when they are born again (see side panel on p. 101)?