

Toddling Through God's Word: The Pharisees

"Nicodemus Trusted God" to the tune of "Hickory Dickory Dock"

Nicodemus trusted God.
For a Pharisee that was odd.
They said they did,
But not Jesus.
Nicodemus trusted God.

Activity 1: Nicodemus visits Jesus. (John 3:1-21)

You Need:

- Jesus Loves Me Printable
- Crayons or markers

Say: "A Pharisee was a man who tried to live and obey all of God's law. Sometimes a Pharisee would add more rules. Pharisees wanted to know God, but some became so concerned with rules that they did not realize Jesus was God's son.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He wanted to know more about Jesus, so he went to see Jesus one night. Jesus told Nicodemus that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus into the world. Jesus would save us. "

1. Let your child color the Jesus Loves Me printable at the end of this PDF.

Activity 2: Jesus heals the man who cannot walk. (John 5:1-30)

No materials needed

Say: "Jesus saw a man whose legs did not work. He was filled with compassion for the man and healed the man. Some Pharisees saw what Jesus did. They were angry. Jesus healed on the Sabbath which broke one of their rules! The Pharisees cared more about rules than helping a hurt man. How sad."

1. Say, "Jesus felt compassion for the man who could not walk. He had a feeling that made him want to help the man, so Jesus did help the man. Jesus feels compassion for everyone who's hurting. Jesus feels compassion when we are hurting."
2. Tell your child that everyone hurts sometimes. Help your child think of someone you know who is hurting right now. How can you and your child help them? Maybe you could send them a card or bring them some cookies. Maybe you could simply call them. If you cannot think of anyone, perhaps you could visit a soup kitchen, homeless shelter, or nursing home.

Activity 3: Jesus teaches. (John chapter 7,8, and 10)

You Need:

- Anger Printable at the end of this PDF
- Scissors
- Glue

Say: "Many people came to hear Jesus teach about God. Many of these people were glad to listen and ask questions. Some of the Pharisees came to listen to Jesus, but they had bad intentions. The Pharisees tried to trick Jesus. They wanted to get Him in trouble. They were angry that Jesus told the truth that He was the son of God. They didn't want to hear it, so they were going to try to get him into trouble."

1. Help your child complete the Angry Printable at the end of this PDF.

Activity 4: Jesus heals the man who cannot see. (John chapter 9)

You Need:

- Foam or paper to create toy glasses' frames
- Pipe cleaner to create the toy glasses' temples
- Foam or paper to create the heart frames
- Scissors
- Glue

Say: "Blind means that you cannot see. A person who is blind can often have a harder time in life because that person cannot see. Jesus saw a man who was blind. He felt compassion for that man."

Jesus healed the man. Now he could see!

The man happily told everyone about Jesus and how he had been healed! The Pharisees heard. They were angry. Jesus healed on the Sabbath which broke one of their rules! The Pharisees cared more about rules than helping the man who couldn't see. That is not good. Maybe the Pharisees were jealous that Jesus was getting more attention than they were. What do you think?"

1. Create toy glasses without holes for your child to see. Tell your child, "This is what it is like to be blind. You cannot see all of the beautiful things around you."
2. Cut out holes in the toy glasses so your child can see. Say, "Jesus healed the blind man so that he could see."
3. Cut out and glue hearts with holes onto your glasses. Say, "Jesus helps our hearts to see His love."



Activity 5: Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. (Matthew chapter 11)

You Need:

- Special snack for your child

Say: "Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When He got there, people praised Him because they knew He was from God.

Then Jesus went to the temple. A temple is kind of like a church is today. It is a place to worship and learn about God. When Jesus went into the temple courts, He saw people selling cattle, sheep, and doves. He saw people exchanging money. This filled Jesus with righteous anger. He turned over tables, scattered the money, and let the animals free.

When many of the Pharisees saw and heard all that was going on, they hated Jesus. How sad. Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, did not agree with the rest. Later Nicodemus would prove that he cared about Jesus."

1. Make a special snack for your child. During the special snack, you can discuss the word: care. You could say....

"I can show that I care about you by making you this special snack!"

"You show you care about me when you give me hugs!"

"Jesus showed that He cares about us by giving us the promise of heaven!"

"How can we show that we love others?"

"How can we show that we love Jesus?"

Name: _____

Jesus Loves Me



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. -John 3:16

Name: _____

Anger

Anger is an unpleasant feeling. It is when you dislike something very much. Maybe it also annoys you. You may want to do something to stop it right now!

It is harder to think when you are angry. Have you ever been angry at someone and made a bad choice? Maybe you were angry with your sibling and you called them a mean name. That isn't a good choice. It's harder to think when you're angry, so it is a good idea to count to 10 before you react.

The Pharisees were angry with Jesus. They did not make a good choice. When we count to 10, and think about what Jesus would want us to do, we can make better choices.

Cut and paste the face.

