

## Step By Step Through The Bible With Children

**"All thy children shall be taught of the LORD;  
and great shall be the peace of thy children."**

(Isaiah 54:13)

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### LESSON 2 -

### THE NEW BIRTH

Children what does Gospel mean? You may answer all together. Yes, Good News.

I wonder if someone remembers what the Good News is?

Several may tell us in your own words.

Those were all very good answers, but we will now have the Bible answer and you may repeat it after me. I Corinthians 15:3, 4, "**That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures - and that he was buried - and that he rose again the third day - according to the scriptures.**" (Hold up the Bible.) What do we call this story? The Gospel or Good News story.

### THE STORY

When GOD made Adam and Eve, He made them in His image and likeness. When they sinned they lost their image and likeness to GOD which no doubt covered them like a garment of glory.

Since then boys and girls have been born unlike GOD; they have been born like Adam and Eve after they lost their glory-life. From that day to this, "**All have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD.**" Everyone is born into this world, without that glory-life, but GOD made it possible for sinners to receive that life when He sent JESUS to die on the cross for sin.

Our story today is about Nicodemus who lived when JESUS did, and who heard the gracious words which JESUS spoke to the sinners all about Him, and who saw His mighty works and miracles.

Nicodemus was a very good man, and also a scholar, which means that he was very wise. He was a ruler and a teacher of the Jews. He taught them from the scriptures about GOD and Heaven and tried to tell people how to live so that they could go to Heaven, because he thought

he knew the way.

Nicodemus knew that no man could do the great things that JESUS did unless GOD was with Him, but he could not understand how JESUS could really be GOD's Son from Heaven, so Nicodemus determined to visit JESUS one night and talk to him about His greatness.

Perhaps Nicodemus did not want his Jewish friends who hated JESUS to see him go, so he went at night and said, "**Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from GOD; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest except GOD be with him.**" JESUS looked right down into this good man's heart and said, Nicodemus you must be born again, for "**Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of GOD.**"

Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born again? Does he have to become a little baby again?" JESUS said, "No, Nicodemus, you have a life of flesh for this earth, but you need a spirit life for Heaven, and whosoever believeth in Me receives that new life."

JESUS told him that GOD so loved him and all the world "**that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life**" (John 3:16).

Perish means to lose your way. GOD does not want any one to lose his way to Heaven. JESUS is the way; He is the truth about the way; and He is the life we need in order to walk in the way. You see JESUS is all that anyone needs, and those who will receive Him will never perish or lose their way to Heaven.

This must have been very good news to Nicodemus for he thought that surely he would go to Heaven because he kept the law and taught other Jews to keep it also.

But JESUS said, "Nicodemus, that isn't the way; you must be born again. You must receive Me into your heart and then you will receive the image and likeness of GOD which is new life."

Nicodemus knew that he had Adam's nature by birth. JESUS wanted him to understand that he could have a new nature by a new birth, and that all he had to do was to believe JESUS came to die for his sins, and receive Him as his Saviour.

We will now think of these two kinds of life, natural life and spiritual life. First we will think of some of the things we receive when we are born into our earthly family, then of some of the things we receive when we are born into GOD's family.

When a little baby is born into this world it receives life for this world. That means a human nature just like its father and mother. (Show a large picture of a mother and infant.)

Let us see how many other things this little helpless one receives when it is born. First it has *life* like its father and mother. Then it is *bathed* and *clothed* because it has been born without the beautiful covering of glory which GOD gave Adam and Eve.

That baby has a *new father* and *mother* who love it very dearly - it has never seen them before. It has a *new name*, a *new home*, a *new country*, and *new friends*.

In order for the baby to grow strong and healthy it must be fed, bathed daily, kept clean, and cared for tenderly.

JESUS wanted Nicodemus to know that being born again was something like being born the first time only very, very much better. Nicodemus needed a new life to fit him for Heaven just as you children do. No doubt he believed the gospel story about JESUS dying on the cross, and received new life. If so, he was *washed* in JESUS' precious blood and *clothed* with a garment of righteousness. He received a *new name*, the name Christian, which sounds almost like CHRIST - for he was then a CHRIST-one.

Nicodemus had a *new* Father, a heavenly Father; he had a *new home*, a heavenly home, and he belonged to a new heavenly *country*.

What a wonderful good news story this is, isn't it, children?

The best part of that story is that GOD has made the way so very simple that even very little children may believe and be saved.

Perhaps there is a child here who would like to receive this new life today and begin to live for GOD. GOD's Word says, "**Now is the time**," while your hearts are young and tender.

If there are any here who believe this good news story but have never invited JESUS to be their Saviour, you may raise your hands.

I am glad to see that there are several who want JESUS to save them and who desire to be born into GOD's family.

You may bow your heads and repeat the prayer after me, "I thank Thee, JESUS, for dying for my sin. I now open my heart and take Thee as my Saviour. Amen."

To whom do you belong now, John?

Mary for whom are you now going to live?

Because you children have received JESUS into your hearts you have been *born again*.

Let us see how many new things you have received. Those who have really received JESUS into their hearts already have received all of these things, also, but perhaps you did not know it.

All who are saved are born into *GOD's family*, and have received new life from above. You may all repeat after me, "I have received *new life* from above." I have been *washed* in JESUS' blood; I am clothed in His righteousness; I have a *new name*. What name is it? Yes, Christian. I have a *new Father*, a *new home*, a *new country*.

JESUS not only saves from sin, but He wishes to keep us from sin in order that we may grow more like Him each day.

The best way for little Christians to grow is to come to Bible Class, and go to Sunday School and Church where GOD's Word is read and taught.

GOD's Word is the Bread that feeds our new spirit life. It is also the Water that satisfies our thirsty hearts and cleanses us from sin.

We will close by singing:

"The B-I-B-L-E yes, that's the Book for me."

Lesson: John 3.

Memory Verse : John 3 :36.

*Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, writes, "I have usually found a clearer knowledge of the Gospel, and a warmer love to CHRIST in the child convert than in the man convert."*

*"I am increasingly enamoured of the work among children. They have not to unlearn those habits of doubt and misconception which hinder so many from accepting the Gospel.*

*"When they have received it they are frank in confessing and so are eager to win others. There is everything in our Saviour to charm and attract the children, and His dear Gospel does not present difficulties to their simple faith. The LORD told us to become as little children that we might enter His Kingdom. Surely then the little children themselves have not far to go - only a step to JESUS."*

- Dr. F. B. Meyer

~ end of chapter 4 / Lesson 2 ~

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