Children's Church at Home 30 May 2021

John 3:1-17

Craft: paper, preferably A3, scissors, pens, pritt stick, paper clips.

First: how many words can you think of which begin with tri?

The Story: John 3: 1-17 ERV - Jesus and Nicodemus - There was a man - Bible Gateway

It was late at night and a visitor arrived to talk to Jesus. It was Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, an important person, one of the leaders. 'Teacher,' he said, 'we can see that you come from God because of all the miracles you've been doing.' 'Absolutely right,' replied Jesus. 'I've been sent to save people, but what they have to do is be born again.' 'What!' exclaimed Nicodemus, 'how can an adult become a baby again?' 'Listen!' said Jesus, 'this means starting a new life, you have to devote yourself to God, love and trust him, and get baptized. Then the Holy Spirit will come and live in you and help you.'

'But what do you mean?' 'Oh, Nicodemus,' said Jesus, 'aren't you a teacher? Don't you understand what I'm talking about? You have to trust me, like the people trusted Moses in the desert when God gave him a way to heal them from snake bites. God has sent me to save everyone who trusts him. I'm here to help, not to blame people.'

Video: fun song with lyrics https://youtu.be/x0MNmUh3v54

https://youtu.be/8iAOW4Rdu5M the story and explanation

or a film version https://youtu.be/_DcIGjClHQo

Quiz: what time of day did Nicodemus visit? What did he say about miracles? What did Jesus say he had to do?

Think: Most people went to see Jesus during the day, when he was out talking to people. Why do you think Nicodemus went to see Jesus late at night? What do you think the other Pharisees would have said if they knew? What sort of person was Nicodemus, do you think? Maybe he was one of those people who like to understand everything about a subject. Do you know people like that? You must know someone who know heaps about dinosaurs or the rules of football. Maybe he was like that. And Nicodemus knew all about the scriptures. He knew all about Moses, and David, and Isaiah.

Now he wanted proof of who Jesus was and what God had sent him to do. But he didn't understand what Jesus told him, because that meant he just had to trust him. He had to admit that there were things about God which he couldn't possibly understand. Like a little child puts their hand in their father's hand and trusts him to take care of them, he needed to stop asking for proof and trust Jesus. And then he would get the greatest gift, the Holy Spirit.

And this is where we get back to your tri words. Did you get tricycle? Triangle? Triceratops? Well, they all mean that 3 is involved. A tricycle has 3 wheels, a triangle has 3 sides, the triceratops had 3 horns. Did you think of Holy Trinity School or Church? Well, there's a 3 in that too: the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. We learned about the Holy Spirit coming last week. Today is Trinity Sunday, the day we celebrate the Holy Trinity. Listen out for it at the end of prayers: in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our Church and school are dedicated to the Holy Trinity and you can see the shape of 3 in their logos.

Craft: make a three cornered hat.

Activity: a counting game for more than 2 players. The aim is to avoid being the person who says 21. The first person says 1, 2, or 3. The next adds 1, 2, or 3 to that, and so on until you reach 21. If you have to say 21, you are out.

Prayer: Dear God, I love to learn new things. Thank you for all there is to know in the world. Teach me to open my heart to you and let your love in, so that I can trust you and know that your Holy Spirit is always there to help me. Protect and care for all my friends and family and bless my teachers at school. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.





