LATE ELEMENTARY · READER'S THEATER

A Visit at Night

John 3:1–19

Parts

Narrator 1 · Narrator 2 · Nicodemus · Jesus

Give each reader a copy and have them highlight their own lines.

You need

- A flashlight
- A room you can darken
- Pass the flashlight to whoever is speaking

Narrator 1 There was a man named Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, and one of the most important Jewish leaders in all of Israel.

Narrator 2 Many of the other leaders did not like Jesus. They did not like what he was teaching.

Narrator 1 But Nicodemus wanted to know more. So one night, when it was dark, he went to find Jesus.

Turn off the lights. Hand the flashlight to Nicodemus.

Nicodemus Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the signs you are doing.

Narrator 2 Jesus looked at Nicodemus and told him something very surprising.

Pass the flashlight to Jesus.

Jesus What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom unless they are born again.

Nicodemus Born again? How can someone be born when they are old? They can't go back inside their mother and be born a second time!

Narrator 1 Nicodemus was confused. He was thinking about the day a baby is born.

Jesus I'm not talking about being born as a baby. People are born to their parents. But God's Spirit gives a new kind of birth, on the inside. Don't be surprised that I said you must be born again.

Narrator 2 Maybe just then, a breeze blew through the night. *(To the audience)* Can everyone help me make the sound of the wind? Ready? **Whoooooosh!**

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Jesus Listen to the wind. You can hear it, but you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus How can this be?

Jesus You are a teacher of Israel, and you don't understand these things?

Narrator 1 Then Jesus reminded Nicodemus of a story from long ago, when Moses led God's people through the desert.

Narrator 2 Poisonous snakes were biting the people. God told Moses to make a bronze snake and lift it up on a pole. Anyone who looked at it would live.

Jesus Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. The Son of Man must be lifted up too. Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

Narrator 1 Jesus was talking about himself. One day soon, he would be lifted up on a cross.

Narrator 2 Then Jesus said the words that became the most famous verse in the whole Bible.

Jesus God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world. Light has come into the world!

Turn the lights back on!

Narrator 1 The Bible doesn't tell us what Nicodemus said after that night.

Narrator 2 But later, when the other leaders were angry at Jesus, Nicodemus spoke up for him.

Narrator 1 And after Jesus died on the cross, Nicodemus brought spices to help bury Jesus' body.

Narrator 2 The man who came to Jesus in the dark wasn't hiding anymore.

Adapted from John 3:1–19, John 7:45–52, and John 19:38–40. Lines from John 3:2, 3:3 and 3:16 follow the NIrV; the rest are written for young readers.

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