

## Nic at Night

By Lee Yates



Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. What is it about late night hours that opens up conversation and allows us to ask big questions? Stay up late with Nicodemus, Jesus, and some deep questions.

**For**  
Young Adult

**Season**  
Winter

### Needed

Bible, note cards and a pen, container for note cards (such as bowl, hat, or the like)

### Prepare in Advance

- Choose a location that is comfortable for visiting and allows easy conversation
- Invite one or more friends to join you

### Activity Plan

1. Start with a brief prayer. Use this prayer or share your own.

*God of creation, you made both day and night. As we gather at this hour, we give thanks for the mystery of midnight. May we find courage in this hour to wrestle with doubts and fears while we also lift up our hopes and dreams.*

2. From your Bible Read John 3:1-10 (or see last page). Discuss these questions:
  - Why do you think Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night?
  - What things happen (good or bad) at night that don't seem to happen in the day time?
  - What, besides the amount of sunlight, is different about nighttime?
  - How do you feel about the questions Nicodemus asked Jesus?
  - I wonder if there are any questions that would be inappropriate to ask Jesus?
3. Explain that the cover of night offers a chance to address difficult questions. Like Nicodemus, each person is invited to bring their questions to be answered or at least asked and discussed among friends.
4. Place a stack of note-cards where everyone can reach them. Have enough pens for everyone. Invite everyone to write down questions about God, faith, or life. Collect the cards in a container.
5. Take turns drawing a question and reading it out-loud. Give everyone a chance to respond to the question. After each person has had a chance to respond, draw a new question and repeat the process.
6. The activity ends whenever you are ready. Save any unread questions for another night.
7. Have some great questions to share? Post them at [Vibrant Faith @ Home](http://VibrantFaith@Home) and read the questions left by others. Maybe you can use them in your next Nic At Night gathering.

## Nicodemus Visits Jesus

### John 3:1-10

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

