



JESUS *stories*



Jesus Stories

“Jesus and Nicodemus”

February 20, 2022 // Tyler Scott, Lead Pastor

INTRODUCTION

What’s YOUR favorite Jesus story? The man on the mat? The woman at the well? Jesus walking on water? Feeding of the 5,000? When people encounter Jesus, things change for them. Join us throughout this series—which culminates on Easter, with the ultimate Jesus story: the Resurrection—and you will experience the life transforming power of coming face to face with Jesus.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is your favorite Jesus story, and why?
2. **Read John 3:1-16.** Take 5-7 mins and discuss: what are your observations of this passage? (*ie What do you notice? What stands out to you?)
3. The big idea of this message is **“You must be born again.”** Tyler talked about the stigma that comes with certain terms in our culture. What stigma (in your opinion or experience) is attached to the term **“born again?”** Why do you think such a stigma exists?
4. Have you ever used the “It’s not you; it’s me” explanation/excuse on someone, or had it used on you?
5. **Read Ezekiel 36:24-29, and 37:14.** How do these passages illustrate the “It’s not you; it’s me”? What images of transformation do you see in that passage?
6. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, and also a member of the Sanhedrin, which means he was highly educated, influential, and “successful.” In what ways do we have a tendency to take Nicodemus’ approach to religion—living for approval, based on our achievements, our performance, or our perceived success? How/why might this be a common struggle for people in our community? Have you experienced this struggle? Explain.
7. When thinking about HOW we are “born again” spiritually, Tyler emphasized “Not acquire and achieve, but **believe** and **receive**.” How does the gospel message (John 3:16 and Ezekiel passages, and the “It’s not you; it’s me” concept) relate to performance-based/rules-driven religion? When did you believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and receive his grace, mercy, and eternal life?
8. How and where have you seen God transform your life in the past? In what ways are you hoping and praying that God will change your life NOW as you follow Jesus?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

PRAYER

Thank God for the 150 people who joined Volunteer Teams last Sunday, and are excited to use their gifts to serve! Share prayer requests and pray for one another.