

Unit Theme: Learning from the Encounter of Nicodemus with Jesus

Lesson 5: Born of Water and Spirit

Lesson Scriptures: John 3:5; Ezekiel 36: 22-33; 37:1-14; Matthew 23:27; Ephesians 5:26

Main Emphases: Through the meeting of Nicodemus with Jesus the students must recognize and remember: **a.** that turning away from God by continuous disobedience -worshipping idols and rebellion will cause spiritual death **b.** that it is only by God's Word through the working of the Holy Spirit shall a man become alive and be qualified to enter God's kingdom.

Memory verses: John 3:3 & John 3:15

***"Unless a man be born again he shall not see the kingdom of God;
v.15 "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall have everlasting life."***

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: At the end of the lesson, the students should be able to:

1. Tell the meaning and symbol of water as mentioned in John 3: 5;
2. tell what person of the Godhead will work for us so that we can live a righteous life and be acceptable to enter heaven/God's kingdom.
3. tell how Jesus described the Pharisees as mentioned in Matthew 23:27;
4. narrate the story about the Prophet's vision of dead men's dry bones;
5. name the prophet who saw the vision of the valley of dry bones;
6. tell whose dry bones were in that valley as seen in the prophet's vision;
7. tell the causes of Israel's downfall that made them desolate and captives by foreign nations;
8. tell the year when Israel regained their homeland;
9. recognize God's faithfulness to his people by fulfilling his promise mentioned in Ezekiel 37:14;
10. compare the condition of the Pharisees described by Jesus in Matthew 23:27 with that of Ezekiel's vision.

Pre-session Activity:

- A. Exercise song:** look for the song "Dry bones" (Dem Bones) by - Muffins

B. Terms/Words to Remember:

- **Water** – based from our Bible story, the phrase “be born of water...” as mentioned in John 3:5 –this means the **Word of God**;
- **Spirit** – refers to the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Godhead;
- **Prophecy** – from Ezekiel’s vision and its story in Ezekiel 36-37, this word “prophecy” means to **speak the Word of God to**
- **May 1948- Israel/the Jews were back to their homeland and has become a sovereign nation.**

DISCUSSION

To continue our lesson about the meeting of Nicodemus with Jesus, let us proceed to John 3:5. Let’s read that one verse today. Jesus told Nicodemus He must be born of water and Spirit. Water here does not refer to the literal water we drink. Water mentioned in this verse signifies the WORD OF GOD. (Ephesians 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.)

Although Nicodemus knew a lot about God’s Law still Jesus told him he must be transformed/ born again by the power of God’s Word and by the help of the Holy Spirit. The act of coming to Jesus that night and asking the Lord with questions, showed his earnest desire to learn from the Lord. This desire was caused by the Holy Spirit that is why Nicodemus was clearly drawn to Jesus (Hinikayat siya ng Holy Spirit na makatagpo at matuto pa sa Panginoon).

Jesus wants all of us to know that we can only be transformed/ renewed /be born again – only through constantly listening to God’s Word and learning the truth from the Bible. The Bible/Word of God is like water cleansing our minds, our hearts that was dirtied or corrupted by sins.

Jesus knew that the Pharisees’ beliefs has corrupted the mind of Nicodemus. Jesus described the Pharisees’ corrupt and crooked ways like that of a tomb filled with dead bones. (Read Matthew 23:27)
Jesus knew that if Nicodemus will not listen and obey God and His

righteous words (God's Word), Nicodemus will suffer the consequences of disobedience. His life will be miserable and desolate. Just like the dead, dry bones in Ezekiel's vision.

Let's study that story.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people,

I am going to open your graves¹³ and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

(If there is enough time, show a portion of the restoration of Israel's nation — short documentary film fitted for Junior High students).

Life Application/ Moral of the Story

God proved His faithfulness to his promises. More so is God's Love for the sinful men as shown by the constant calling of God to his chosen people to be obedient to His commands. There's blessing in listening to God's Word and obeying what was heard and taught.

Evaluation: Ask questions following the objectives given.

Carry-over Activity

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]"

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit.

⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You^[c] must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."^[d]

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."^[g]