Preschool–Grade 5

Nicodemus Craft

Born of the Spirit, like the wind · John 3:2; 3:8; 3:16 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Both levels are a paper windsock: a tube with a dark blue night sky, curly wind lines, a red heart and blue water along the bottom, with six light blue and yellow streamers hanging below and a yarn handle on top. Nicodemus, who "came to Jesus by night" (John 3:2), is drawn in the oval window. The streamers move in the wind, because "The wind bloweth where it listeth" (John 3:8). Medium (left): the windsock and its streamers. Harder (right): the same, with a paper world hanging on yarn through the middle of the windsock, for "God so loved the world" (John 3:16).

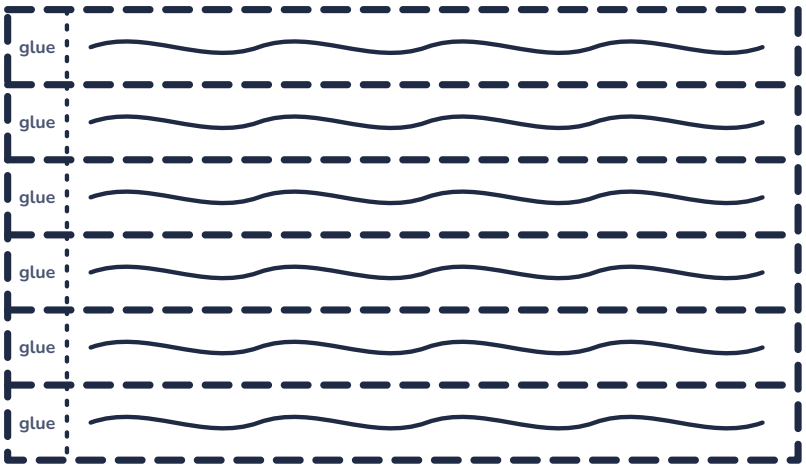
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



windsock: sky dark blue, heart red, water blue. Draw Nicodemus in the window.



6 streamers: color them light blue and yellow

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the windsock, the 6 streamers and the verse strip.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

The world (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines.



world, front



world, back

both circles: color the water blue and the land green

How to add the world

1. Make the windsock with its streamers from page 2 first.
2. Color both circles: the water blue and the land green. Cut them out on the dashed lines.
3. Cut a piece of yarn about 8 inches long. Put glue all over the back of one circle. Lay one end of the yarn across it, and press the other circle on top, so the yarn is caught between the two circles.
4. Tape the other end of the yarn inside the top edge of the windsock, at the back, so the world hangs down through the middle of the windsock, among the streamers.
5. Tell it: point to the heart, then to the world. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). "Whosoever" means anyone in the whole world.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/nicodemus-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (plain printer paper rolls into a tube most easily), dark blue, red, blue, light blue and yellow crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Nicodemus, scissors, glue sticks, clear tape, and a 12-inch piece of yarn for each child. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, a green crayon and an 8-inch piece of yarn.
Before class: cut the yarn. For preschoolers, cut out the windsock, the streamers and the verse strip ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the pieces and draw Nicodemus in the window. You glue the streamers on, roll the tube, tape on the handle and glue the verse strip on the back. Then they blow on the streamers.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw Nicodemus, cut out the pieces, glue on the streamers and roll the tube themselves, with a little help with the tape. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the windsock like the medium level. Then add the paper world from page 3, hanging on yarn through the middle of the windsock (John 3:16). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sky dark blue (the curly wind lines stay black on top), the heart red and the water along the bottom blue. Leave the oval window white. Color the streamers, every other one light blue and yellow.
2. **Draw:** in the window, draw Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night (John 3:2).
3. **Cut:** cut out the windsock, the 6 streamers and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Streamers:** turn the windsock over. Glue the glue end of each streamer on the back, along the bottom edge behind the water, spaced out, so they hang down.
5. **Roll:** roll the windsock into a tube with the picture on the outside. Glue the glue tab under the other end and add a piece of tape.
6. **Handle:** tape both ends of the yarn inside the top edge, on opposite sides.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back, over the seam, and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** blow on the windsock. "The wind bloweth where it listeth" (John 3:8): you can't see the wind, but you see the streamers move. Point to the heart: "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the window. Who was Nicodemus? *(A man of the Pharisees, a ruler of the Jews, John 3:1)* When did he come to Jesus? *(By night, 3:2)*
- What did Nicodemus call Jesus? *(Rabbi, a teacher come from God, 3:2)*
- What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? *("Ye must be born again," 3:7)*
- What did Jesus say we must be born of? *(Water and the Spirit, 3:5)*
- Blow on the streamers. What did Jesus say about the wind? *("The wind bloweth where it listeth," 3:8; you hear it, but you can't tell where it comes from or where it goes)*
- Point to the heart. Who does God love? *(The world, everyone: "For God so loved the world," 3:16)*
- What does "whosoever" mean? *(Anyone at all, 3:16)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **Pharisee** was one of a group of Jewish men who worked hard to keep God's law; a **ruler** is a leader; **Rabbi** means teacher; **verily** means truly; **marvel not** means don't be surprised; **listeth** means wants to; **whence** means from where; **whither** means to where; **so loved** means loved so very much; **begotten** means born; **whosoever** means anyone; **perish** means be lost forever; **everlasting** means forever.
- **What the Bible says:** the wind is Jesus' own picture: "so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). The night sky, the heart, the water and the world are the craft's simple pictures of John 3:2, 3:5 and 3:16; the Bible doesn't describe the place where Nicodemus met Jesus, and it doesn't say why he came by night.
- **Born of water and of the Spirit:** Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). The free lesson teaches what that means from Acts 2:38 and Acts 2:4: baptism in Jesus' name and being filled with the Holy Ghost.
- **No person is drawn on the template:** each child draws Nicodemus in the window. Jesus is not drawn; the heart stands for John 3:16.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and do the rolling and taping for them. Let every child blow on the streamers. The yarn is a handle for holding or hanging, not for wearing.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus and Nicodemus lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/nicodemus.

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