Jesus and Nicodemus

**Aim:  To talk about the Holy Spirit**

**Occasion: 2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture: John 3:1-17**

**Game: (for older children) Balloon ball**

**You will need: a balloon, a two goals (two chairs a metre apart) at each end of the room.**

**What to do: divide the children into two teams. Give each team a goal. The object of the game is to get the balloon into your team’s goal.**

**You can make this interesting by calling out which part of their body they can use to move the balloon e.g. ‘head’ or ‘left hands’, or ‘tummies’. The winning team is the team with the most goals after 10mins.**

**Game: (for younger children) Balloon challenge**

**You will need: balloons, chairs or cones**

**What to do: Give everyone a blown up balloon. Get them to line up at one end of the room. When you say go, they have to get to the other end of the room as fast as they can by touching the balloon with only their heads.**

**Once they get to the other end do it again. This time, change the body part. E.g. Only touching the balloon with your left ear etc**

**The game ends when ever you like!**

**Story: (John 3:1-17) Jesus and Nicodemus**

**There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish Leader. Once night he went to Jesus and said, “Sir, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you.”**

**Jesus replied “I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God’s kingdom!”**

**Nicodemus asked, “How can a grown man ever be born a second time?”**

**Jesus answered “I tell you for certain that before you can get into God’s kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God’s Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don’t be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God’s Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to.**

**You can hear the wind, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going.”**

**“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.**

**Jesus replied “How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these things? I tell you for certain that we know what we are talking about because we have seen it ourselves. But none of you will accept what we say. If you don’t believe when I talk to you about things on earth how can you possibly believe if I talk to you about things in heaven?**

**No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from there. And the Son of**

**Man must be lifted up, just as that metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert.**

**Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life.**

**God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son in to the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! No one who has faith in God’s Son will be condemned.”**

**Questions:**

* **What is wind?**
* **Where does wind come from?**
* **What is the Holy Spirit?**

**Activity: Holy Spirit Wind Mills**

**What you need: a copy of the template, a pencil for each child, thumb tacks, crepe paper in red, orange, yellow and blue, stuff to decorate with.**

**What to do: Cut out the template. Get the children to decorate it.**

**Cut down the dotted lines on the template.**

**Pull the four corners with a “\*” into the middle.**

**Take a thumbtack, and carefully push through the centre of the template and all four corners. (note: leaders will have to help do this for the younger children)**

**Take a pencil and push the thumbtack into the pencil. Make sure that you don’t push it all the way.**

**Attach crepe paper streamers to the windmill. You may like to wrap them around the pencil. Or have them attached to the wind mill. Test that it works by blowing it.**

