



REFERENCES: JOHN 3:1-21; 7:45-53; 19:38-42; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 167-177.

# Special Friends

*Do you have a special friend? What do you do with your special friend? Did you know Jesus had special friends?*

**N**

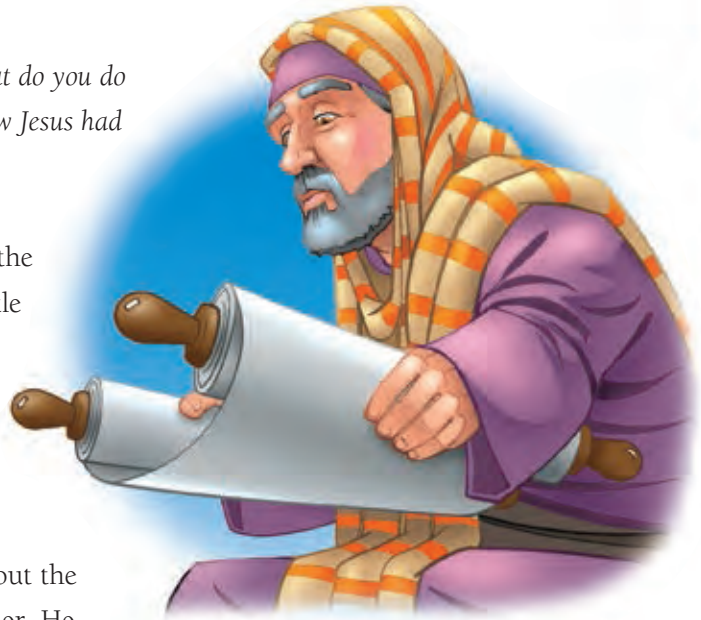
icodemus opened the door just a tiny little bit. The night was dark. There wasn't anybody on the street. He closed the door gently and walked to the city gate.

While he walked he thought about the new teacher. He had listened to Him

teach. Nicodemus had studied his Bible scrolls, and he was sure this new teacher was someone sent by God. Nicodemus thought this new teacher was the promised Saviour, the Messiah they had been waiting for. But he wanted to be sure.

Nicodemus had important friends. And this teacher was not popular. Nicodemus's friends didn't like the new teacher. So Nicodemus had decided, "I'm going to see Him at night!"

And that's what he did. He walked in the darkness to see Jesus.



## Memory Verse

"A friend loves at all times."

PROVERBS 17:17, NIV.

## The Message

Friends always care for each other.

“I know that You are a teacher from God,” Nicodemus said to Jesus. “No one could do miracles like You do unless He came from God.”

Jesus spoke kindly to Nicodemus. “God loves everybody,” He told Nicodemus. “God loves people so much that He has sent someone very special, His own Son, to help people on this earth.”

Now Nicodemus was sure Jesus was very special. And as he thought and thought and read his Bible scrolls, he was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, the Saviour God had promised to send.

But Nicodemus had a problem. His friends didn’t like Jesus. They didn’t want Jesus to teach and heal people. So they tried to stop Him. But when Nicodemus’s important friends tried to hurt Jesus or make things hard for Him, Nicodemus talked them out of it.\* “You can’t do that,” he told them. “That’s not right. That’s not what our laws say.”

When Jesus died, Nicodemus was there to help. He didn’t care if other people saw him. Nicodemus had been a secret friend, but now everybody could see he was Jesus’ friend.

Nicodemus was rich. He spent all of his money helping other people know about Jesus. He wanted others to be Jesus’ special friends too. Would you like to be Jesus’ friend today, as Nicodemus was? Would you like to tell your friends about Jesus?



\**The Desire of Ages*, p. 176.

# Do and Say

## SABBATH

Read the lesson story and use the following to review the memory verse this week.

**“A friend . . . . .** Hold hands together.

**loves. . . . .** Cross arms over chest.

**at all times.” . . .** Spread arms wide.

**Proverbs 17:17.** Put palms together;  
then open.

Help your child count the reasons to love Jesus. (He’s good; He loves me; He’s kind; etc.)

## SUNDAY

Help your child take the heart-to-heart card made in Sabbath School (or make a card that says “Jesus loves you”) to a friend. Encourage your child to “read” the card to their friend.

Sing a song about Jesus’ love; then thank Him for His love for your friend.

## MONDAY

Help your child make a heart shape for each family member. Encourage him or her to say “Jesus loves you” while distributing them. Ask each one to tell how they know Jesus loves them. Sing “Into My Heart” before prayer.

## TUESDAY

Read John 3:1, 2 together. Let your child care-

fully hold the Bible as you point to the verses. Ask: When did Nicodemus visit Jesus? How did he know that Jesus was sent by God? (He knew of Jesus’ miracles.) Talk about the way Jesus cares for your family every day.

Take your child outside to look at the night sky and talk about how Jesus cares for us at night.

Sing a song of thanks to Jesus before prayer.

## WEDNESDAY

Play hide and seek. Pretend to be Nicodemus looking for Jesus. When you find Him, share a loving hug.

Let your child ask your family to tell about a special friend. Thank Jesus for friends.

## THURSDAY

Use dried beans or other small objects to help your child name and count friends. Name each one in a special thank-you-for-friends prayer.

## FRIDAY

Act out the story for family worship.

Let your child be Nicodemus. Talk about how Nicodemus was Jesus’ loyal friend and how your family can be Jesus’ friends too.

