

The Gospel of John Nicodemus

Interpreting the Text:

1. What do you make of the setting of the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus?
2. Is there any significance to the description of Nicodemus as a teacher of Israel?
3. Where do the breaks in chapter 3 occur? When do we begin to hear the voice of the narrator?
4. What does the image of the “son of Man” likened to the serpent on the staff of Moses convey?
5. The language of “sight” is used throughout John’s gospel. How does this word emphasize the goal of Jesus’ ministry on Earth?

Applying the Text:

1. What is the role of misunderstanding between Jesus and Nicodemus? Can you imagine yourself as Nicodemus in this story?
2. What is the relationship between “water” and “spirit” in the discourse? How do “water” and “spirit” function in the ritual practices of the church?
3. In chapter 2, see Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana while he is still a young person. How can we use this story to encourage the gifts of young people in our own communities?