

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 2: Who Am I

Lesson 4: Who Am I

The Cave of Wisdom

The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush

Welcome to the cave of “Indecision”. This is a very dark portion of the cave. In the book of Revelation, Jesus threatens the church in Laodicea to “spit you out of my mouth” because they were neither hot nor cold. The people of the Laodicea church couldn’t make up their minds to serve or not to serve Christ. Their attitude was: “We don’t need anything from God. We can take care of ourselves and are doing very well.”

This is a dark corner of the cave because the light of Christ does not burn in the hearts of those there. When you reach the point in your life that you believe you can “do it alone”, you are in danger of forfeiting the dream which God has planned for you since “before you were born”. We call this “self-confident” and the “I am” that is ourselves is not submissive to the “I AM” that is our God.

Circle of Fire: Who Am I God knows me, but do I know myself?

Scripture: John 3:4 – Nicodemus asked Jesus: “How can a man be born when he is old?”

John 3:10 – Jesus responded: “You are Israel's teacher and you do not understand these things?”

Biblical Character: Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a member of the Pharisee religious sect of the Jews and also a member of the ruling council. The Pharisees strictly adhered to the details of the law. By following the law they considered themselves as righteous before God and needed no more to enter God's kingdom. But Nicodemus was more ... he was on the ruling council which was about to have Jesus crucified. The council sent many Pharisees to try to trick Jesus into saying or doing something which could be used against him.

Nicodemus would have been present during the council meetings which plotted against Jesus. But he was uncertain as to whom Jesus really was. He believed that Jesus was a great teacher and healer based on his actions. But many people believed that Jesus was much more ... perhaps the promised Messiah. To his credit, Nicodemus did attempt to ensure in his own mind that what the council was doing was not against an innocent man. So he came to Jesus .. at night ... to find out for himself.

Nicodemus did not want to be seen by anyone as they would probably recognize him as a council member and report his actions back to the council. If the High Priest found out that Nicodemus was visiting Jesus, he could have had Nicodemus thrown off the council or into jail.

Nicodemus did not wish to lose his status position. Act out the meeting between Nicodemus and Jesus as the character Nicodemus. Note the uncertainty as to Nicodemus accepting that Jesus was the Messiah. But also explain that Nicodemus would provide the grave for Jesus' burial.

Show the "Nicodemus and Jesus" video.

Show the "Three Wooden Crosses" video.

Modern Character(s): Michael Monsoor

John 15: 13 Jesus told his disciples: "Greater love has no one than to lay down his life for his friends." Our reality character saved the lives of his squad by giving his own ... unhesitatingly. Michael did not show indecision as many have done about Jesus.

Show the "Medal of Honor" video.

Play the video: "He Knows My Name". Discuss with the members that God knows the name of each of us.

Cave Dark Side Journey: Indecision means you are stuck on the fence. Jesus called this neither hot nor cold. Get unstuck by action.

The Tribe: The Power of Choice: God didn't have to give us choice. He could just make all of the decisions for us. But that wouldn't allow us to show love toward him. Choice is a powerful gift to us from God. But we must learn to make wise choices that take us toward the dream God has for our lives. We do this by praying to God, seeking His guidance from His written Word, and asking other Christians for advice. In so doing we are decisive in our desire to follow Christ.

Craft: "Be a Butterfly" plaque. See Appendix 8 Craft for directions on how to make the plaque.

Recreation Activity: "The Choice" game. Use 3 chests with a prize in each. Have the group select one and open. Then have them decide to keep or trade based on contents. See Appendix 6 Recreation for directions on The Choice game.