

## CHRIST AND NICODEMUS

Lesson IV.

John 3 : 1-16.

January 22, 1899

**Golden Text**—"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.

**Catechism**—8. What does God know about you? God knows everything I think, say or do.



## THE LESSON STORY

Jesus had no home of His own, but He used to stay sometimes at the homes of His disciples. John had a house in Jerusalem, and once, when

His friends were called the Pharisees, and they hated Jesus because He had told them they were only pretending to be good, when really their lives were full of cruelty and meanness. They called Jesus bad names, and they would have liked to catch Him and kill Him.



Nicodemus was a good deal better than his friends, for he believed that Jesus was a good man, and that He would be able to teach him about God: that is why he came to see Him.

The first thing Jesus told him was: "You must be born again."

Nicodemus said he didn't understand how a man could become a little baby again after he was grown up. Then Jesus explained to him that He did not mean that his body must become a child again, but that his soul must be made new by God's Spirit.

Nicodemus was surprised at what

Jesus was there, a man came to see Him at night. The houses in that hot country have flat roofs, so that people can sit out upon them, where it is cool and pleasant, and talk to their friends.

Perhaps Jesus was sitting on John's roof when the man, whose name was Nicodemus, came to call.

Nicodemus was afraid to come to see Jesus in the daytime because he knew his friends would notice where he was going, and would be angry.

Jesus said, and asked: "How can these things be?"

Jesus told him that God's Spirit is like the wind, for when the wind is blowing you can see the trees and the grass moving, but nobody can see the wind itself. In the same way you can see what God's Spirit does, although nobody can see the Spirit with his eyes.

When it was time for Nicodemus to go home, Jesus gave him a verse to learn which helped him to become one of His followers. The verse was the Golden Text for to-day.