Bible Verse: John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Nicodemus is a Pharisee. At the time of Jesus, Pharisees are powerful and important in the Jewish world. Pharisees taught that if you followed certain rules and practiced certain ways, then God would favor you. And since they believed that they knew the right rules and practices better than anyone else, that worked pretty well for the Pharisees!

Jesus is teaching about a different kind of rules and practices. Jesus is talking about a completely different relationship with God. You can imagine that the Pharisees did not want people listening to Jesus instead of listening to them.

But Nicodemus sees that Jesus is doing miracles, that Jesus is helping people and healing people and that his followers are learning to be closer to God. Nicodemus believes that Jesus is somehow connected to God, even without following the "right" rules and practices.

So Nicodemus goes to talk to Jesus. He sneaks in during the dark of night. Nicodemus listens to Jesus for hours. Jesus teaches Nicodemus about a God of Love and the Holy Spirit, instead of a God of strict rules and traditions. Jesus tells Nicodemus a person can be "born again", so filled with the Holy Spirit that they will be lifted up to God. And Jesus, the Son of God, was born to show the way of the Holy Spirit. The way of the Holy Spirit is the way to Eternal Life with God.

Nicodemus hears Jesus say, "For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten son that they might have Eternal Life".

When Nicodemus goes back to his friends, the Pharisees, he has a lot to think about!
He decides that they should at least let Jesus speak.

In the story of Nicodemus, Jesus shows the way to Eternal Life with God through Love and rebirth in the Holy Spirit.

Wonder Question: It must have been very hard for Nicodemus to go against what all his friends believed and said. Is there a time when you did not go along with what your friends said?