

The main role of a team captain in backyard kickball, is to pick who they want on their team. Throughout the process the captain has to make choices from who is left over in the group of players. There's probably some kind of criteria that helps determine why one kid would be chosen over another.

When it comes to trusting in God, there's kind of a similar process that we must go through. Joshua reminded the people of that option in **Josh 24:15**, "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And Elijah asked a similar question to the Hebrew onlookers at Mt. Carmel. **1 Kings 18:21**, "How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

Throughout scripture we see other people that had to decide to follow God or not. One parallel example is found in the Pharaoh's of Egypt. The Pharaoh who ruled during the time of Joseph, acknowledged God's power and authority. **Gen 41:39-40**, "Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are. You shall be in charge of my house, and all my people shall be obedient to you...'" But both Pharaohs that ruled during the time of Moses didn't acknowledge God. **Ex 1:8-10**, "Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, 'Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, [so they can't fight against us]'"

In **John 3** we're introduced to a religious "ruler" who privately acknowledges God's authority. "We know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." (**John 3:2**). Yet the gospels outline how most didn't acknowledge his authority and rejected him. When we read about Nicodemus, I hope we see the need to humbly recognize his authority in all things.

## Read **John 3:10-17**

What's it mean to "call on the name of the Lord"? (*Gen 13:4; 1 Kings 18:24; Joel 2:32; Zeph 3:9; Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13*)

How do the gospels help us recognize God's power in Jesus?

Compare the Pharaoh of Moses' day to the Pharisees in Jesus' day. (*Pharaoh = Ex 1:8-10; 5:2; Pharisees = Matt 12:14; John 11:47-57*)

How does Nicodemus resemble the Pharaoh during Joseph's Day? Or does he?

What do you learn from Nicodemus that helps you in your walk with God?



ACKNOWLEDGE  
HUMILITY  
JESUS  
PARALLEL

AUTHORITY  
NICODEMUS



# Pharaohsee