

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To help your group members understand that it's okay to have questions about Jesus. He welcomes our questions, knows our hearts and wants real relationship with everyone. Discuss how seeking answers with a sincere heart can lead to spiritual illumination and a deeper faith.

ICE BREAKER



Who was the best teacher you have ever had? What made them such a great teacher?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: An invitation to investigate Jesus can lead to spiritual illumination.

Key Question: What will you find if you investigate Jesus?

1. Jesus answers honest skepticism. (vv. 43-47)
2. Jesus honors sincere inquiry. (vv. 48-49)
3. Jesus calls for sustained attention. (vv. 50-51)

DISCUSSION



- In this passage we read about a man, Nathanael, who has questions about Jesus, and is invited to “come see” about Jesus for himself. Do you, or have you ever had questions about Jesus? How are you seeking answers or investigating those questions? Why is it important for people to go to Jesus himself, rather than relying on what someone else says about him?
- After Philip is called by Jesus (v.43) he invites his friend, Nathaneal, to come see who Jesus is. What opportunity do you have to invite others to meet Jesus and how does Jesus' greeting of Nathanael (v. 47) encourage and embolden you to invite others to know Him?
- Jesus’ response to Nathanael’s question in verse 48 leads to Nathanael confessing him as Christ (v.49). What does this interaction teach you about Jesus’ willingness to answer our questions?
- In verses 50-51, Jesus tells Nathaniel that he “will see greater things” if he continues to follow him. How can we pay closer attention to see Jesus at work in the world around us?
- Read Hebrews 2:1-4. What does verse 1 highlight as a benefit of “paying close attention?” What would it look like for us to refocus our attention on the gospel and getting to know Jesus? How would we benefit from taking these steps?

LIFE APPLICATION



Who is Jesus? We’re invited to investigate this question and to go to Jesus directly for our answers. As a group discuss how this passage might change the way we seek answers to our own question or the way we interact with others who are skeptical of Jesus.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


