



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Encountering Jesus

Bible Reading: John 1:35-51

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

John 1:35-51

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and he looked at Jesus ... and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" **37** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. **38** Jesus turned ... and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" ... "where are you staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, ... **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" ... **42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" ...

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ... **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 ... 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."

I. The Initial Encounter

A. Hearing and following

1. People's encounter with Jesus begins with hearing
2. After hearing they follow
3. After following they trust/believe

4. This faith then becomes a way of life
5. John records the first encounter the disciples had with Jesus.

B. Different catalysts and different people

- John the Baptist
 - The unconventional messenger who is baptizing people
 - Declares Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Son of God
 - Becomes the catalyst for Andrew and “other disciple”
- Andrew and other unnamed disciple
 - Disciples of John the Baptist; committed, dedicated
 - Hear from John the Baptist
 - Curiosity about where Jesus dwells when Jesus asks what they are looking for
 - Follow Jesus and stay with him, left John the Baptist
- Peter – rash, impulsive, leader
 - Heard from his brother Andrew
 - Brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew
 - Jesus gives him a new name
- Philip – knowledgeable about scripture, anticipating the Messiah
 - Found by Jesus
 - Jesus says “follow me.”
- Nathanael – the sceptic
 - Found by Philip
 - Philip tries to enlighten Nathanael doesn’t argue but says “Come and see”
 - Hears from Philip but is sceptical
- John, the writer
 - A late bloomer, doesn’t seem important
 - Always mentioned at least second (Peter, James and John; or James and John)
 - Not prominent in Acts
- No one size fits all
- Yet all have a one-on-one encounter with Jesus

C. Two levels of following – literal and symbolic (1:37-39)

D. Following is active

II. Come and See

A. Call to Jesus’ followers

1. Different ways his disciples first encounter Jesus
 - a. By hearing from others – two disciples of John
 - Being asked “What are you looking for?”
 - Called to “Come and see”
 - b. Being “found” and directly called to “follow” – Philip
 - c. Being “found” by others and then brought to encounter Jesus
 - Peter – given a name change
 - Nathaniel – Jesus’ word to him:
 - > “Behold an Israelite in whom is no deceit”
 - > “I saw you under a fig tree”
 - > “You will see greater things than these”
2. Called to follow not to work
 - a. Encountering Jesus precedes work
 - b. Without an encounter, you are not changed, and work will not last
 - c. Need ongoing encounters with Jesus

B. A call to the readers

C. How Different People “See” Jesus

1. Initial Setting
 - John the Baptist – the Lamb of God, The Son of God
 - Andrew and disciple – Rabbi – teacher
 - Andrew says they found the Messiah
 - Philip – him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote; Jesus of Nazareth
 - Nathanael – Rabbi; the Son of God; the King of Israel

- a. Initially we may see Jesus differently
 - b. It is never a full understanding at the beginning
2. Progressive Seeing/Revelation – 1:50-51
“You will see greater things than these.” 51 *And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you [pl.], you will see? heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*
– A word to those followers and to us
– As John’s account goes forward, they will see more, heaven will be opened more and more

III. The testimony of Jesus’ followers – Come and See

- Andrew to Peter – “We have found the Messiah”
- Philip to Nathanael – “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

IV. How do we “see Jesus” today?

A. Through and in the Word

- John writes so readers can “see” Jesus

B. Through and in the Believers – the church

C. Requires a curiosity

- “where do you stay?”
- healthy scepticism/good questions- Nathaniel