

Icebreaker:

When you get some good news, who is the first person you want to share it with? Why?

Questions:

1. Who introduced or invited you to get to know Jesus?
2. Jesus began his question to the first two disciples by asking what they were looking for. Why do you think Jesus began with a question? How do you think people at your work/in your neighborhood/etc. would answer that question?
3. In verse 38, what did the two disciples ask of Jesus? Do you find this question curious? Why or why not?
4. Do you find it easy or difficult to invite people to “come and see” who Jesus is or what Jesus is about? What would make it easier for you?
5. The disciples have a number of immediate responses to Jesus. In faith issues, are you generally more excited like Andrew (“We have found the Messiah”) or skeptical like Nathanael (“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”)?
6. The invitation from a Rabbi to disciples was an invitation into a relationship, rather than an invitation to a class, event or program, which might happen in today’s world. What are a couple of differences about an invitation into relationship rather than an invitation to an event or class?
7. Going forward, would you be willing to invite someone to worship, to home group, or to something else at ZPC? What would be the difference in inviting someone to worship or inviting them to join your home group?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Melissa Schmidt’s father John Young, Ann Loudenback, and Star Paterson.
- > Prayers of comfort for Nancy and Ron Baker in the death of Nancy’s mother, Carolyn Barnes; for the Bostian family in the death of Jennifer’s sister; and for the Fulk family in the death of Lori’s nephew and brother-in-law.

From the ZPC monthly Prayer Calendar [available at zpc.org/prayer or at the Welcome Center].

- > Pray for the leaders and participants of Cru on college campuses. Bring revival and renewal to campuses throughout Indiana.
- > Bless the members and leaders of the ZPC Choir. May they experience fellowship and authentic worship as they sing.

Discipleship, growing in our faith in Jesus, includes being in relationship with Jesus and inviting others to be in relationship with you and Jesus. This week’s passage in John 1 shows us how John the Baptist showed Jesus to the first two disciples by saying, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” It was a bold introduction followed by a simple invitation from Jesus, “Come and see.” Each of us have been invited into a relationship with Jesus; and often we have received that invitation through a friend or a close family member. It should inspire us to remember how we got to know Jesus so that we can be encouraged to invite others.

1. Share with your group who told you about Jesus. For some it was simply going to church or a church retreat or camp. For many of us, it was a personal invitation to Jesus or to an event by a friend or family member. How did you get to know Jesus?
2. Jesus’ question is a very open-ended question that could have many meanings. When seen in context that Jesus has just been called the Lamb of God, the question can still mean who are these disciples looking for: a Messiah, a Rabbi, or are they looking for meaning in life, purpose, etc.? Jesus wants to know what they want before they commit to him and he commits to them. What would your friends say to Jesus?
3. The disciples ask, “Where are you staying?” It’s a curious question! Perhaps they know he is a rabbi and want to see where they might stay if they decide to follow him as teacher. Perhaps they just want to check him out – by seeing where he is staying they can begin to see if they can trust him or if he’s crazy or something else! His answer “Come and see” allows them to see first without committing.
4. Many of us find it difficult to invite others to come and see Jesus. In a culture where we don’t want to offend others, inviting people to meet Jesus can be touchy or seen as offensive. For others, they feel confident in both who they are and who Jesus is to simply invite others to join them in seeing Jesus. Asking someone to “come and see” is less abrupt than other ways to talk about Jesus.
5. Do you get excited about faith and Jesus? Or are you naturally a little more curious/skeptical? Either way is fine. It’s good to be self-aware so that we can know how to approach Jesus, our faith, and others when we talk about faith. We can be trusting of Jesus and who he is, so that we can give more of ourselves to him and invite others to see him too.
6. The invitation of a Rabbi to a disciple was very relational. Rabbi and disciples would travel and live together. In today’s world, we go to church, home group or an event and then go home. Diving into a relationship is risky open yourself up to others. Church and events are less risky as we can debrief our experiences. Eventually, we are all called to “dive into” relationships with Jesus and with others. The famous hymn asks us to say “I Surrender All” to Jesus.
7. Challenge each other if you are bold enough, to invite someone new to worship or to home group for the fall semester. Inviting a friend to home group means you want to build relationship with them. Or invite a young family to VBS in June, or invite friends to a women’s study, to ZPC Men, to Free Birds (for empty-nesters), or to Second Half Adventurers (for those 60 and over).