

Icebreaker:

In today's scripture, Nathanael says, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Where is your hometown? Do you feel the same or differently about it?

1. Last week in response to John the Baptist saying "Look" in John 1, we asked, "What are you looking for?" You may have received that question on your mobile device this week every day at 4 pm. So how do you answer that: What are you looking for?
2. Who do you identify with more, Philip or Nathanael? Read again what each of them said in John 1:43-49.
3. In John 1:47, Jesus found Philip. Do you more commonly think that you found Jesus or Jesus found you? Does thinking one or the other make a difference for you?
4. Dale Bruner says about Jesus in John 1, "So Jesus lives this low-profile life and goes this low-profile way intentionally." What is one low-profile way you can make an impact for the Kingdom?
5. The theme of this series is "Come and See." Philip says to Nathanael "Come and see." Take 5 minutes now in your group to meditate on "Come and see." You can move to a different seat or room if there is space, or simply sit quietly where you are. After 5 minutes, return to the group and share your thoughts on "Come and see."
6. When Philip says, "Come and see", he is creating a culture of invitation when it comes to Jesus. What can you do as an individual and what can we do as a church to be more invitational?

For next week: We see in John 1 that John the Baptist, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael all recognize Jesus as the Son of God or Lamb of God. Throughout the gospels, the disciples grow closer to Jesus. Where are you now in your journey of faith? Please share with your group next week.

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Carole Hastings, Ann Letchworth, Ed Memmen, and Theresa Beardsley.
- > Prayers of comfort for Beth and Kent Snyder in the death of Beth's father and for Marianne and Greg Mahler in the death of Marianne's mother.
- > We celebrate with the Samuelson family (and grandparents Lane and Steve Kessel) in the birth of Lydia Nicole.

Jesus had said earlier in John 1, "Come and you will see." Philip says to Nathanael, "Come and see." We sometimes think that we find Jesus, but the truth is God is pursuing us first, and we find Jesus when we open ourselves up to him, as the first disciples did. We will all do well to "come and see" what Jesus is doing in our lives and to share that gentle invitation to others, "Come and see" who Jesus is and what Jesus is doing.

1. Last week, the main question was "What are you looking for?" Andrew West says that question will have a great deal to do with what you find. So what's your answer? Are you looking for love, for joy, for meaning, for relationships, for Jesus?
2. In this passage, Philip has already simply decided to follow Jesus at Jesus' invitation. Philip quickly goes to being a follower and spreading the good news about Jesus. Nathanael is a skeptic, asking "can anything good come from Nazareth?" – perhaps because it was small and insignificant or because a Roman army garrison was located there. Nathanael believes in Jesus as the Son of God when he sees that Jesus really knows him.
3. Jesus finds Philip and knows all about him, and says he is a true Israelite, in whom there was nothing false. Philip realizes Jesus really knows him and so immediately accepts that Jesus is the Son of God. The fact that Jesus has seen him, knows him, and finds him makes all the difference.
4. Jesus comes from a small town, Nazareth, and reaches out to disciples one or two at a time. He is starting his ministry as a Rabbi by simply calling people to "follow me" and "come and see" in very simple, low-profile ways. You may not need to change the world in some grand way, but in some small way. Help a neighbor, serve someone in need, make a phone call, make a connection, change the world.
5. Yes, we are challenging you to do something different in your group. Take a full 5 minutes to meditate on come and see. Let it soak in. It may be awkward, but let it be so. Allow people to think and reflect and then share what they think about "come and see."
6. How can we be more invitational? It can be by creating a warm and friendly church or building. It can be being more accessible to neighbors or friends, or letting ourselves be interrupted. More than that, we can invite people to our homes, out to lunch or coffee, or to a program at church.
7. For next week: Simply read the question and ask your group to reflect on this. Then you can re-ask the question next week and people may be more ready to answer it. Thank you.