

## SESSION 5

# SHARE CHRIST



*When have you needed courage to introduce yourself to someone?*

**QUESTION #1**

#BSFLrelationships

*We have a responsibility to introduce our friends to Jesus.*

## THE PASSAGE

John 1:35-49

## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

A casual introduction can often turn into something far greater.

- ▶ Ivan Vaughan introduced Paul McCartney, a friend from school, to another friend, John Lennon. Those two later would form the Beatles and change the world of music.
- ▶ Bill Fernandez introduced his friend Steve Wozniak to another friend, Steve Jobs. They eventually gave us Apple Computers.

We know this on a personal level too. For example, many of us were casually introduced at a social event to the person we've now been married to for years.

A wise man once observed that who you become depends a lot on three things: the people you meet, the places you go, and the books you read.

I think this is solid advice, but let's consider the role we play in helping other people meet. A relationship with Jesus Christ changes everything, and we have opportunities to help other people meet Christ and have the same life-changing relationship.

In the Gospel of John, we're introduced to some men who met Jesus of Nazareth, and they, in turn, introduced others to Him. We too can make introductions that change lives.

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## John 1:35-39

**35** Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

**36** And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

**37** And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

**38** Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

**39** He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

In the church today, we easily toss around the word “disciple” to describe those who follow Jesus. For some, however, following Jesus doesn’t seem too different from following someone on Twitter or Facebook. They say they follow Jesus, but they try to follow a lot of other things at the same time.

In the days of Jesus, though, the word “disciple” meant someone who literally *followed* another person. To be someone’s disciple meant you went wherever he went, slept where he slept, ate what he ate, and did everything you could to emulate him. John the Baptist had disciples like this, including Andrew and another unnamed man (John 1:40). So when their mentor and role model said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” it certainly caught their attention.

**How did Jesus first catch your attention?**

### QUESTION #2

John had been telling anyone who would listen that the Messiah was coming. John’s message was clear:

- ▶ “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2).
- ▶ “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord” (John 1:23).

As John’s disciples, they repeatedly heard this message and surely were in a state of hopeful anticipation. So when John made this declaration, he immediately set Jesus apart from all others. John had been proclaiming “He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose” (v. 27), so when he declared the divine role of Jesus as “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (v. 29), his followers knew enough to know they wanted to know Jesus and follow Him. They chose to be the Lord’s disciples. We know this because they “followed Jesus” and asked Him, “where dwellest thou?” They were ready to go where he went, sleep where He slept, and eat what He ate.

It was common for rabbis to quiz potential disciples to see if they understood enough or had what it took to follow him. Not Jesus. He only asked, “What seek ye?”

The two disciples called Jesus “Rabbi” and asked where He was staying.

Jesus invited them, “Come and see.”

## DIGGING DEEPER



### LAMB OF GOD

John the Baptist’s confession upon seeing Christ, that here was “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (1:29), is of great significance. The Jews used a lamb as a sacrifice for the Passover Feast, which celebrated Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt (Ex.13:1-10; compare John 13:1). Isaiah offered the idea of the

Suffering Servant in terms of a sacrificial lamb (Isa. 53). John was declaring that Jesus was the true sacrificial Lamb for the Passover; His death would now serve as the deliverance of God’s people from their sins. As Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Corinth, “Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Cor 5:7).

—James Emery White, *The Gospel of John in Holman Bible Handbook*, gen. ed. David S. Dockery (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1992), 610.

What a beautiful picture of Jesus' love of people. He is always available to those who seek Him. We tend to fill our lives with activities and schedules. Jesus stayed busy too, but He was always "interruptible." In most of the forty-plus encounters in the Gospels where Jesus talked to someone, that person approached Jesus. He was always accessible to people. He invites us also to follow Him. He invites us, "come and see."

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### **John 1:40-45**

**40** One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

**41** He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

**42** And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

**43** The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

**44** Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

**45** Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

What do you think of when you see the word *evangelism*? The term itself makes a lot of believers nervous. We know sharing Jesus with others is important, but we're frightened by the prospect of actually doing it. For some, this is especially true when sharing Christ with family members.

But notice how naturally and quickly Andrew told his brother Simon about Jesus. As Jewish men, they longed for the coming of the Messiah. Andrew had even aligned himself with John, the one who was proclaiming the coming Messiah. So we might even hear

enthusiasm in Andrew's voice as he announced to Simon the good news that Jesus was in fact the Messiah they sought!

Andrew's influence and words led his brother to have his own encounter with Jesus. Jesus immediately began to work on Peter, even changing his name to reflect who he would ultimately become: "Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone." Jesus essentially gave Simon a nickname that means "rock." Peter may have been rash and impulsive, but under the leadership and lordship of Christ, he would become a leader solid as a rock.

The following day Jesus traveled to Galilee where He met Philip. Andrew followed Jesus after John announced Him as the Lamb of God, but Jesus simply issued the call for Philip to follow Him, and Philip followed. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach for people to come to faith in Christ. Some people, like Andrew, need to hear a testimony—"Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36) or "We have found the Messiah." Others, like Philip, respond to a more direct approach—"Follow me." We see in Jesus' ministry that He took different approaches with people to point to Himself.

Philip received an invitation from Jesus to follow Him, and he naturally passed that invitation on by telling Nathanael the good news as well. Philip's message was a bit more descriptive: "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Andrew and Philip modeled evangelism for us simply by sharing the good news they knew of Jesus with others. Do you want to tell someone about Jesus? Tell them the good news you've found in knowing and following Christ.

**What often holds us back from telling others about Jesus?**

**QUESTION #3**

**John 1:46-49**

**46** And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

**47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

**48** Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

**49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

While Andrew, Peter, and Philip immediately began to follow Jesus, Nathanael was a bit more hesitant. We don't know if Nathanael's attitude reflected a rivalry between his hometown of Cana (John 21:2) and Nazareth or a general perception that Nazareth was "on the wrong side of the tracks." Whatever the case, Nathanael saw "Messias" and "Nazareth" as mutually exclusive terms.

**Why are some people skeptical about Jesus in our day?**

**QUESTION #4**

People today will also offer arguments against Jesus' being the Messiah. Perhaps they've been told of supposed discrepancies between various accounts in the Bible; they can't reconcile in their minds certain foundational truths, such as Jesus being both fully man and fully God; or maybe they've been turned off by the behavior of some Christians. When we encounter such people, we will do well to follow the example of Philip.

Let's begin with what Philip did not do.

- ▶ Philip did not take Nathanael's skepticism as a personal offense. We might be tempted to take it personally if others don't immediately see what we see in Jesus. We convert their doubt about Him into skepticism about us, as if they were asking, "How can you be so foolish as to believe in Jesus?"
- ▶ Philip did not get into an intellectual argument with Nathanael. He defended neither Jesus nor Nazareth.

Instead, Philip simply repeated what Jesus had said earlier: "Come and see." Inviting people to "see" Jesus—to look into Him on their own—is more effective than arguing about Him. A man in my church was an atheist earlier in life, but now he follows Jesus. Why? One day he shared his skepticism with a Christian friend. His friend simply replied, "Jeff, look around. You know everything didn't just happen out of nothing." That simple statement stayed with Jeff for years until he met Christ as Savior. He didn't need a list of arguments; he just needed to look around at creation.

Philip gave us a great example by simply keeping the focus on Jesus. This calls for patience with those who are hesitant, doubtful, or even unkind when they hear the good news. Their preexisting view of things can initially hinder them from seeing the joy of salvation in Christ. We must graciously help them to see beyond their blind spots to see Jesus. No arguments; just "come and see."

Nathanael responded to Philip's invitation, though he remained skeptical. Jesus responded to that skepticism by telling Nathanael, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee" For rabbis and their students, a fig tree was considered a place of prayer and meditation on the law—a place of devotion. That's how Jesus identified Nathanael as a sincere Jew.

This was a supernatural insight from Jesus, and it grabbed Nathanael's attention. More than that, it blew away his doubts. Philip had challenged Nathanael to "come and see"—to check out Jesus for himself.

Nathanael did, and he was changed. He became a follower of Jesus and acknowledged these three truths about Him:



- ▶ **Rabbi.** Nathanael saw that Jesus was the Teacher to follow, to learn from, and to imitate.
- ▶ **The Son of God.** Perhaps Nathanael already heard John the Baptist proclaim the divinity of Jesus (v. 34). In that moment, Nathanael affirmed that truth.
- ▶ **The King of Israel.** Jesus was the King of Israel that Nathanael—and all Jews—had been looking to for deliverance. Simon, Philip, and Nathanael—what a difference was made because of a simple invitation. How much difference can we make in people’s lives with that same invitation to “Come and see”?

**How can we make sure our group is a place for others to “come and see” Jesus?**

**QUESTION #5**

## HELPING OTHERS “COME AND SEE”

***Prayerfully answer the following:***

Identify one of your friends who doesn’t have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ:

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Begin by writing a prayer for this person to “come and see” Jesus:

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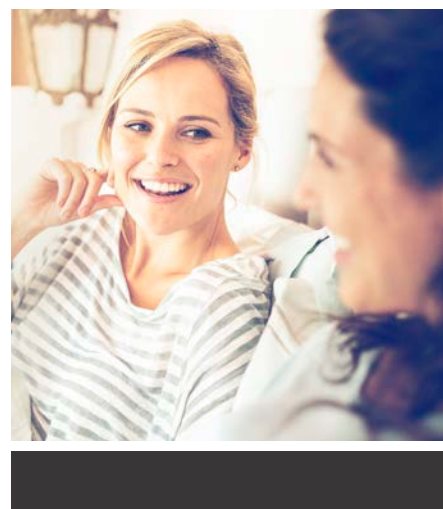
Look for opportunities that God will present for you to share your faith with your friend.

# LIVE IT OUT

What will you do to invite others to “come and see” Jesus? Consider the following applications:

- ▶ **Pray.** If you’ve never talked about Jesus with someone else, begin with prayer. Who do you know who is without Christ? Pray for the person, pray for the opportunity to talk, and pray for boldness.
- ▶ **Invite.** Invite others to “come and see” by inviting them to join your Bible study group. Bible study is a great way for individuals to see what God’s Word says about Jesus.
- ▶ **Tell.** Telling others about Jesus does not require a deep grounding in the Bible and theology. Telling someone about Jesus can be as simple as telling how you met Him and what He has done in your life. Share with others your own encounter with Jesus and how He changed your life.

Someone introduced you to Jesus. Someone took the time to invite you to “come and see” what Christ was all about. Now it’s time for you to do the same.



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