

SESSION 5

SHARE CHRIST

The Point

We have a responsibility to introduce our friends to Jesus.

The Passage

John 1:35-49

The Bible Meets Life

A relationship with Jesus Christ colors every other relationship. As we saw in Session 1, the love of Christ—and our love for Christ—lead us to love others and ground every aspect of those relationships in love. The best way we can love others is to introduce them to Jesus, the One who leads us to love them.

The Setting

Following his impressive introduction, John set his Gospel in historical context by linking the beginning of Jesus' ministry with that of John the Baptist. John the Baptist had begun preaching and baptizing, and even gathering disciples. He identified the One sent from God to be "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

What does the Bible say?

The Lamb of God (v. 36)—
In the Old Testament God prescribed a lamb without blemish as the proper sacrifice for sin. The title “the Lamb of God” identified Jesus as the ultimate substitutionary sacrifice for sin.

John 1:35-49 (CSB)

³⁵ The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ “Come and you’ll see,” he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed him. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah.” (which is translated “the Christ”), ⁴² and he brought Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw him, he said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated “Peter”). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶ “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him. “Come and see,” Philip answered. ⁴⁷ Then Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁹ “Rabbi,” Nathanael replied, “You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!”

GET INTO THE STUDY



10 minutes

Notes



DISCUSS: Invite your group members to discuss **Question #1** on page 45 of the PSG (Personal Study Guide): **“When have you needed courage to introduce yourself to others?”** Allow time for each person to answer.

SUMMARIZE THE PSG (PAGE 46): 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 someone who has become a trusted friend. 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.

SAY: “In the Gospel of John, we’re introduced to some men who met Jesus of Nazareth, and they, in turn, introduced others to Him. Our charge is no different: lead others to know Jesus.”

GUIDE: Call attention to **The Point** on page 46 of the PSG: **“We have a responsibility to introduce our friends to Jesus.”**

PRAY: Transition into the discussion with prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus, the promised Lamb of God, to take away our sin.

TIP: *In your prayer time, make a point to pray for your pastor each week. This emphasizes one way we can each serve our church: by caring for and supporting our pastor.*

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PACK POSTER:
Pack Item #5
“Come and See” poster
PLAYLIST PICK:
“All I Need”
By About A Mile



STUDY THE BIBLE

Notes

Dotted lines for taking notes.

John 1:35-39 (CSB)

35 The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" 39 "Come and you'll see," he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL): In advance, invite someone from your group or church to share briefly about how they came to know Jesus. Ask them to share about the person or persons who were instrumental in their earliest understanding of Jesus. Meet up before your group time to let them practice telling their story.

SAY: "In today's session, we get a clear picture of how several of Jesus' closest followers first met Him."

READ: Ask a group member to read aloud John 1:35-39.

SUMMARIZE THE PSG (PAGE 47): John the Baptist had been telling anyone who would listen that the Messiah was coming.

- » So, when he proclaimed, "Look, the Lamb of God!" (v. 36) it certainly caught Andrew and another unnamed man's attention.
- » As John's disciples, the two men repeatedly heard the message of the coming Messiah and surely were in a state of anticipation.
- » John's declaration immediately set Jesus apart from all others. John had been proclaiming "the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie" (v. 27), so when he declared the divine role of Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (v. 29), his followers knew enough to know they wanted to know Jesus and follow Him.

ALTERNATE QUESTION:

Who in your life is good at introducing others to Jesus?

DISCUSS: Question #2 on page 47 of the PSG: **"When did you first hear about Jesus?"**

TRANSITION: We're invited to know Jesus personally; we're also given the task of telling others what we've learned about Jesus.

John 1:35-39 Commentary

Seek a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Verses 35-37: John the Baptist understood his calling: to prepare the way for the Messiah. His preaching emphasized the coming judgment, the need for repentance, and the coming Messiah. One day, John the Baptist stood with two of his disciples, one later identified as Andrew (v. 40). Having become convinced that their religious activities and heritage lacked the power to atone for their sins, they attached themselves to John as his disciples. When John saw Jesus passing by, John willingly pointed the two disciples to Jesus. John modeled a true servant's heart because he showed none of the normal human tendency to make a name for himself.

By calling out, "Look, the Lamb of God!" John issued a clarion call for Andrew and the other disciple (perhaps John, brother of James) to follow Jesus. For months, he prepared the way for the Messiah by connecting Him to the sacrificial system. So when these two disciples heard John clearly identify the Messiah, that was all they needed to know. They immediately determined to follow Jesus. The word "followed" (Greek tense of a "once-for-all act") meant these two were ready to make a commitment to Jesus. They turned their allegiance from John to Jesus and walked with Jesus literally. Eventually they would walk with Him spiritually as well.

Verse 38: Knowing someone had begun to follow Him, Jesus turned around and confronted them, "What are you looking for?" This question dramatically formed Jesus' first recorded words in this Gospel. Given the way John the Baptist had introduced these two followers to Jesus, they were likely so awestruck they could not speak. Jesus' question broke the ice for them. The Lord certainly did not ask Andrew and John what they were seeking because He lacked information. His question forced them to consider why they followed Him.

The pair expressed further interest in their response with another question, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" By calling Jesus "Rabbi," they acknowledged their shift of allegiance from John to Jesus. As His disciples, they wanted more than a casual conversation. They wanted to know where He stayed so they could meet with Him and find out more.

Verse 39: Jesus replied to their seeking hearts, "Come and you'll see," which conveyed the idea, "If you come—and I want you to come—then you will see." Since it was about four in the afternoon, Jesus invited them to spend that day and evening with Him. Undoubtedly, Jesus told them something of His mission and answered their questions.

John 1:40-45 Commentary

Tell others of your experience with Jesus. Verse 40: After having spent only one evening with Jesus, the two disciples became witnesses to others. The reference to Andrew as Simon Peter's brother presupposed readers' knowledge of Simon Peter, since this is the first reference to him in John's Gospel.

Verses 41-42a: Having become convinced Jesus was the Messiah, Andrew immediately went and found Simon. Jesus had met the crying need of Andrew's heart, and he could not contain his joy. He had to tell Simon immediately. When Andrew found his brother, he said to him, "We have found the Messiah." The term "Messiah" means "Anointed One" and carried deep meaning for John throughout his Gospel. He wrote this Gospel to convince readers that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing in Him a person could find life (20:31).

Andrew's announcement, "We have found the Messiah," echoed John the Baptist's proclamation, "Look, the Lamb of God!" Obviously, his disciples had learned from John the Baptist that "Lamb of God" and "Messiah" were synonymous terms. While Andrew's simple pronouncement showed no awareness of the saving nature of the Messiah's ministry, he knew enough to make the connection. He also knew enough about Jesus that he should tell other people about Him.

Verse 42b: It must have shocked Simon for Jesus to look right at him and call him by name, "You are Simon, son of John," then suddenly change his name to Cephas, or the more common Greek form of the name, Peter. Cephas is the Greek transliteration of an Aramaic word for "rock." Thus Simon's new name actually functioned more like a nickname. Jesus knew what Simon would eventually become, so Jesus gave him a name that would reflect his character after the Lord's work in him.

Verses 43-45: Jesus continued to direct the action by departing from the wilderness area and heading toward Galilee. John continued developing the "finding" theme contained in the previous paragraph as Jesus found Philip and as Philip found Nathanael. Unlike when Jesus asked Andrew and John, "What are you looking for?" Jesus issued Philip a direct command, "Follow me." This classic invitation stated as a present tense imperative carried the idea of an ongoing commitment to follow Jesus.

John did not elaborate on the conversation between Jesus and Philip, but it had to have been an amazing experience for Philip because he immediately looked for Nathanael to tell him about Jesus. Philip's conclusion about Jesus told everything, "We have found the one Moses wrote about." Philip told Nathanael what he had learned firsthand from Jesus—that the Messiah was "Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

John 1:46-49 Commentary

Invite others to know Jesus for themselves. Verse 46: Even in the face of Philip's enthusiasm about Jesus, Nathanael started out as a doubter who refused to believe anything worthwhile could "come out of Nazareth." Nathanael could not envision that the Messiah would come from Nazareth. Although Nathanael expressed skepticism, Philip challenged him to "come and see."

John offered the testimony of eyewitnesses—Andrew, John, Simon Peter, Philip—who came to the conclusion that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Philip challenged Nathanael in essence, "You come and ask your questions."

Verse 47: Even as Nathanael approached Him, Jesus read him like a book. Jesus called him a true Israelite in whom there was "no deceit." Nathanael had not yet met Jesus or had any conversation with Him, yet Jesus described his heart and character accurately. Jesus contrasted Nathanael with the original Israel and forced the readers to recall the story of Jacob. Jacob, whose name meant "deceiver," took his brother's blessing by deceiving their father Isaac. As Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He sized him up as someone with no hypocrisy or phoniness. In a nation full of supposedly self-righteous people who exalted themselves, Jesus had found an honest, true-hearted man—a rare commodity in Israel.

Verse 48: Nathanael knew Jesus had aimed His words at him personally, and asked, "How do you know me?" Jesus' answer convinced him. Philip must have found Nathanael under the fig tree and there told him about Jesus. This implied Jesus also knew about Nathanael's disparaging Nazareth comment. Jesus essentially said, "I saw you when My eyes could not see you. I can see your heart." That the Lord saw him without seeing him physically pointed to His omniscience.

Verse 49: Nathanael stacked together three great titles, "Rabbi . . . Son of God . . . King of Israel." John clearly wanted to show Nathanael as a skeptic without any predisposed notion to believe Jesus could be the Messiah. The radical change in him showed the compelling weight of evidence caused Nathanael to confess Jesus as Messiah.

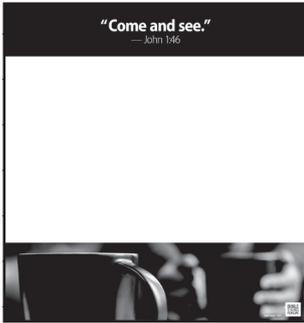
Nathanael's confession anticipated John's hope in writing his Gospel: that readers might come to "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Nathanael's willingness to come to Jesus and his purity of heart allowed him to see truth by the grace of God. John designed this portion of the narrative to lift up Christ and to give readers a clear picture of His divine nature.



5 minutes

LIVE IT OUT

Notes



Dotted lines for taking notes.

LEADER PACK: Bring your group’s attention to **Pack Item #5**, “Come and See” poster. Invite group members to consider whom they might introduce to Jesus. Direct them to write the name of this person on the poster.

SAY: “What will you do to invite others to ‘come and see’ Jesus?”

GUIDE: Lead group members to consider the responses to the Bible study listed on page 52 of the PSG.



- » **Memorize.** Commit to memory John 20:31. Spend some time in prayer this week thanking God for sending His Son to give us life.
- » **Invite.** Invite others to “come and see” by inviting them to join you in your Bible study group. Connecting to a Bible study group is an excellent 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 is as simple as telling how you met Him and how He has changed your life. Unsure of where to begin? Start with your response to the second portion of “The Lamb of God” activity on page 50.

Wrap It Up

SAY: “Jesus calls us to follow Him, but He doesn’t stop there. We’re given the charge of introducing our friends to Him. **And that’s the most important introduction we’ll ever give.**”



Additional ideas for your group are available at BibleStudiesforLife.com/AdultExtra