

5

Share Christ



When have you needed courage to introduce yourself to others?

QUESTION 1

#BSFLrelationships

We have a responsibility to introduce our friends to Jesus.



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 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.

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 Him.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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.

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 all that 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, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (v. 36) it certainly caught their attention.

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

- » “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!” (Matthew 3:2).
- » “I am a voice of one crying out 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 anticipation. So when John made this declaration, he 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 they wanted to know Jesus.

When did you first hear about Jesus?

QUESTION 2

It was common for rabbis to quiz potential disciples to see if they understood enough or had what it took to follow them. Not Jesus. He only asked, "What are you looking for?" (v. 38). The two men called Jesus "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher") and asked where He was staying. Then Jesus invited them, "Come and you'll see" (v. 38).

John 1:40-45 (CSB)

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."

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 uncomfortable 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 whom he would ultimately become. "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter")" (v. 42). Jesus essentially gave

What can we learn from Andrew and Philip's response to following Jesus?

QUESTION 3

When have you felt compelled to tell someone about Jesus?

QUESTION 4

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. It’s important to note 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—“Look, the Lamb of God” (v. 35) or “We have found the Messiah” (v. 41). Others, like Philip, need a more direct approach—“Follow me” (v. 43). 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 then he passed that invitation on to someone else by telling Nathanael the good news of Jesus as well. Philip’s message was a bit more descriptive: “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth” (v. 45).

Philip’s words give us important insight into the biblical message of who Jesus is. Jesus is not merely the central message of this passage in the Gospel of John. Jesus’ message is not limited to the Gospels or even to the New Testament. All of Scripture—the entire grand narrative—points to Jesus. Philip already sensed that Jesus was the One, the Messiah, pointed to in all the Hebrew Scriptures.



"The gospel isn't a religious sales pitch. It's a deeply personal story of love and salvation."

DAVID PLATT, COUNTER CULTURE

THE LAMB OF GOD



Which words best describe your reaction to Jesus when you first heard about Him? Circle all that apply.

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Skeptical | Hopeful | Angry |
| Unsure | Awe | Curious |
| Contemplative | Guarded | Repentant |
| Thankful | An "Aha!" moment | Encouraged |

How would you summarize your experience with Jesus in just one sentence?

John 1:46-49 (CSB)

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!”

While Andrew, Peter, and Philip immediately began to follow Jesus, Nathanael was more hesitant. So, Philip simply repeated what Jesus had said earlier: “Come and see” (v. 46).

So Nathanael went. Then Jesus saw him approaching and said, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit” (v. 47). Jesus pointed to His divinity by telling Nathanael, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you” (v. 48). For rabbis and their students, a fig tree was considered a place of prayer and meditation on the law—a place of devotion. Jesus could identify Nathanael as a sincere Jew with no deceit because Nathanael had been in a place of prayer.

Philip had challenged Nathanael to “come and see”—to check out Jesus himself. Nathanael did, and he was changed. Nathanael became a follower of Jesus and acknowledged three truths about His identity:

- » **Rabbi.** Nathanael saw that He was the Teacher to follow, to learn from, and to imitate.
- » **The Son of God.** Nathanael affirmed the divinity of Jesus (v. 34).
- » **The King of Israel.** Jesus was the King of Israel that Nathanael—and all Jews—had been anticipating.

What a difference Philip made with a simple invitation. How much difference can we make in lives today with that same invitation to “Come and see”?



What are some ways we can invite others to “come and see” who Jesus is?

QUESTION 5

LIVE IT OUT

What will you do to invite others to “come and see” Jesus?

- » **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.

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.**



My thoughts