



## Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on September 17th, 2023 - Week 1

### John 1:35-51 (NASB)

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and \*said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and \*said to them, "What are you seeking?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" 39 He \*said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day; it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first \*found his own brother Simon and \*said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He \*found Philip. And Jesus \*said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip \*found Nathanael and \*said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!" 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be from Nazareth?" Philip \*said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and \*said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael \*said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He \*said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## DIGGING DEEPER

We encourage your group to watch the Drive Thru History “Bible Backroads” Gospel of John video series found on RightNow Media. These 12-minute videos do a great job setting up the background historical setting of the book.

If you haven't spent time hearing your group member's stories of when they first believed in Jesus, spend some time doing that before you jump into the rest of the discussion. Encourage the group to keep their story to 3 minutes max so everyone can share.

### **Read John 1:35-39**

What do you think motivated the two disciples to follow Jesus? What can we learn from their response?

Jesus asks the two disciples in John 1:38, "What are you seeking?" What were you seeking when you came to Jesus?

Jesus invites the disciples to “come, and...see.” What does this invitation reveal about Jesus' approach to drawing people to him? How can we apply this approach in our own lives when sharing the gospel?

### **Read John 1:40-42**

Grace Church's strategy is for our congregation to invest and invite those in our community just like Andrew did to Peter. Who in our community are you investing in? Who in our community are you inviting?

### **Read John 1:43-51**

How does Philip respond to Nathanael's skepticism, and what does this teach us about introducing others to Jesus?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Jesus reveals his knowledge of Nathanael's character even before meeting him. What does this tell us about Jesus' divine nature? How does it impact our understanding of who Jesus is?

How does the response of the disciples to Jesus in this passage (following, bringing others, and recognizing his divinity) serve as a model for how we should respond to Jesus in our own lives?

What can we learn from the way Jesus calls his disciples in this passage about the qualities and attributes he values in those who follow him?

## TAKING IT HOME

## PRAYER REQUEST

