



Revealed: The Book of John
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“The Incarnate Invitation”
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Key Verses: John 1:35-51

Key Thought: *Incarnate* means God in the flesh; in human form. Jesus, God incarnate, takes the initiative in pursuing a relationship with man by asking “What are you looking for?” followed by an invitation to “Come and see!” In turn, by following Jesus’ example, we initiate discipleship by bringing others to Jesus and inviting them to “Come and see!” The ultimate incarnation invitation is for the divine and human to meet and share life through Jesus.

Points to Consider:

- V.35-39 – John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God and two of his own disciples turn to follow Jesus. Rather than being annoyed by these new followers, Jesus asks “What do you seek?” acknowledging that there is intent in their pursuit of Him. Their response to Jesus’ question (“Rabbi, where are you staying?”) not only acknowledges their understanding of who He is, but signifies a deeper desire to be wherever He is remaining. Jesus responds with “Come and you will see.” He is inviting them to find what they are looking for by experiencing His presence.
 - i. JH Bernard reminds us that Jesus is revealed through our personal quest to follow Him and abide in His presence. There is a place for entertaining questions and arguments for the purpose of understanding who Jesus is, but these are no substitute for a personal, abiding relationship with Him.
- V.40-42 – Andrew receives Jesus’ “Come and See” invitation and extends it to his brother, Simon. Upon meeting Simon, Jesus affirms him, then says he will be called Peter, which means “rock”. This identity was contrary to who Simon Peter and others think him to be, as he was known for being unpredictable. The message here is that Jesus does not see us for who we are but who we can become. By abiding in Him, we will become who He calls us to be.
- V.43-51 – Jesus found Philip, who in turn found Nathanael. (Notice how Jesus’ ministry begins with disciples making disciples.) Upon hearing about Jesus, Nathanael questioned whether any good thing could come from Nazareth. He was having difficulty looking past reality to see the divine. Jesus, however, found no offense in his comment, but rather commended him for being honest and a man of integrity. Jesus was drawing a contrast between Nathanael the Israelite and Jacob (Israel) whose name meant trickery. Nathanael, too, saw and heard, and thus believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Discussion Prompts:

- Consider the idea of man’s quest for what only Jesus can provide and Jesus’ invitation to “Come and see”. Are you caught up in the search or have you responded to Jesus’ invitation to abide in His presence? How does your response inform your next steps in your journey toward wholeness?
- Are you willing to let go of your identity and embrace a new identity through Christ? Pray that the Lord would teach you to abide in His presence and reveal who He is calling you to be?
- Are there unbelievers you know that need to hear the invitation “Come and See!”? Embrace the value of your personal experience with Jesus as a powerful tool in the disciple making process.
- Close with prayer for one another, based on your discussion.