



# ENCOUNTER

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS

Community Group Discussion: 07.14 - 07.28

## **SERIES OVERVIEW**

*Life is really a series of crucial conversations — some good, some bad, some memorable, and some forgettable. But there are a few crucial conversations in life that transcend being merely memorable and actually change things. Jesus loved having crucial conversations and he still does. In this series, we will look at three crucial conversations that Jesus had with people just like us, and we'll see how His words changed them, and how His words continue to change us.*

## **MAIN TEXT**

John 1:43-51

## **GETTING STARTED**

What people, or things, do you find yourself being most skeptical about? Why?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. What crucial conversations in your life stand out in your memory? Did they have a lasting impact on you?
2. Is there a conversation you need to have with someone that you have been putting off? How can you overcome the obstacles that prevent you from having that conversation?
3. Read John 1:46. Put yourself in Philip's shoes. How would you have responded to Nathanael's comment about Jesus? Are you building bridges or burning them with the skeptics in your life?
4. Philip didn't provide a lengthy explanation, instead he simply invited Nathanael to "come and see", which disarmed his skepticism. How can a personal experience with God help you understand Him better than any explanation you hear of who He is?

5. Read John 1:48-49. Nathanael had an “a-ha” moment where he realized who Jesus was. Have you ever had moments like that in your life?
6. The message a lot of people hear when they come to church is “go and accept.” Is this what you heard when you first encountered God? How is that different from “come and see?” What message does your life portray to non-believers about Jesus?
7. We want to build bridges of grace that can bear the weight of truth. Sometimes, we can be too heavy on truth or too heavy on grace when we present Jesus to those around us. Why is it necessary to find a balance between grace and truth when talking to people?
8. “Jesus is the only one who can change hearts, minds, and actions.” Does this resonate with you, or does your inner skeptic say it takes more than that?

## **NEXT STEPS**

Through this conversation that Jesus had with Nathanael, we see that Jesus invites us to come and see what He’s all about. Search your heart and ask yourself: am I skeptical?

## **PRAY**

Pray together and on your own this week that you will be able to lay your skepticism down and seek Jesus.

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