

02

JOHN 1:40-51

WE FOUND HIM!



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Finding something we've been looking for is exciting and relieving. Think about the student who finally found a great dress for the homecoming dance, the kid who finally discovered his missing AirPods wedged inside the couch cushions, or the athlete who realized her cleats weren't missing—her mom just put them away. Each one probably celebrated and then immediately went to tell someone else, "Guess what I found?!" Today we'll observe Jesus's first disciples realize that He was the One they'd been looking for and then eagerly spread the word to others. Some realized His identity immediately while some struggled with doubt, but to all of them, the invitation was the same: "Follow me."



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus is the One the world is looking for—and we're invited to follow Him.



EXPLORE

scripture

JOHN 1:40-51

JOHN 1:40-42

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").

JOHN 1:43-46

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.

JOHN 1:47-51

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!" **50** Jesus responded to him, "Do you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." **51** Then he said, "Truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 1:43b

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 1:19-28

DWELL

Before people wondered who Jesus was, they wondered about John the Baptist. After all, he was such a strange guy, and his clothes and words kind of reminded everyone of prophets they had read about in Scripture. They wondered if he was the one the Scriptures had been pointing to. But John was clear about his purpose: he wasn't the One, but he would point to Him.



What distinction does John make between his identity and Jesus's identity?



Where can you spot John's humility in this passage?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 1:43b on a piece of paper, "taking a picture" of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

PRAY

Pray that God will produce in you a humility like John's that will help you point to Jesus rather than yourself.

day 2

JOHN 1:29-34

DWELL

In this passage, John the Baptist functions like a neon arrow, pointing brightly to Jesus. In a way, he was kind of like a commercial for the Messiah, desperately desiring that those who heard would believe his words about Jesus and would be willing to abandon everything else to follow Him. After all, John shaped his entire life around Jesus, and his tone seemed to testify: it was worth it!



How did John describe who Jesus is? Why would this have mattered to his listeners?



What did John say would be different about the way Jesus will baptize? What do you think this means?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 1:43b on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Spend some time thinking about who Jesus is, and praise Him for it. Then, ask Him to shape your entire life around Him.

day 3

JOHN 1:35-42

DWELL



What evidence do you see that John's testimony about Jesus was contagious?



What do the actions in this text motivate you to do?

There's nothing like the recommendation of a trusted friend. If someone you respect and trust says, "You'll love this new restaurant!" or "I found the best face wash!" or "You have to listen to this new album!" you would likely follow the recommendation and would probably pass the good news along to someone else. But often we lack enthusiasm in our talk about Jesus, and it's probably because we've forgotten that He's actually good news. Jesus's invitation to Andrew is also for us: "Come and see." We can spend time with Jesus through His Word and through prayer and remember, "Wow! This is what I've been looking for!"

MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 1:43b from memory twice.

PRAY

Ask God to renew your excitement for Him! Spend some time remembering why He is such good news and ask Him to show you someone with whom you can share Him.

day 4

JOHN 1:43-46

DWELL

Perhaps Philip had already heard about Jesus from Andrew and Peter, since they were all from the same town. Whether he was familiar with Jesus or not, Philip was ready to respond to Jesus's simple invitation: "Follow me." Immediately, it seems Philip began to tell others, like Nathanael. Nathanael's doubts didn't discourage Philip—Philip knew Nathanael needed to encounter Jesus. So, Philip extended his own invitation: "Come and see."

↔ **How might Philip's response to Nathanael inform how we interact with those who have doubts about Jesus?**

➔ **Who can you invite to "come and see"?**

MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 1:43b from memory as you can.

PRAY

Think about a few people you know who you think need to encounter Jesus, and spend some time asking God to reveal Himself to them.

day 5

JOHN 1:47-51

DWELL

Nathanael was honest with Philip about his doubts regarding Jesus, but Jesus didn't seem to offer any judgment. In fact, he almost seems to commend him, saying, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit" (v. 47). Perhaps Jesus liked that Nathanael wasn't pretending to believe when He really didn't. Nathanael's doubts weren't hidden from God—just like whatever he was doing under that fig tree wasn't hidden from God. God sees all things—and for those who follow Him, He will let them see some of His wonders.

↓ **Why is it a good idea to be honest with God, even about the things we perceive to be bad, such as doubt?**

↪ **What are some ways you are pretending to believe but, in reality, are wrestling with doubt? How can you take these doubts to God?**

MEMORIZE

Write out John 1:43b somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

PRAY

Confess your doubt to the Lord and ask Him to invite you into deeper belief. Praise Him for being a safe place for all of your thoughts and feelings!