



**JANUARY'S THEME**

**COME AND SEE**

SCRIPTURE John 1:35-51

**BOTTOM LINE** Discipleship is about following

**MEMORY VERSES 1:51**

**LIFE APP** Consider what it would mean to follow Jesus in your actions as well as your thoughts.



- Tonight we will be in the “choir format” for seating where we’ll be pulled towards the front.
- There is communion so be sure to invite kids to observe that moment.

**MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:**

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**

Tonight we begin our series “Come and See.” Tonight we find John the Baptist and his disciples as they cross paths with Jesus for the first time. The interactions that follow can teach us a lot about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. One of the chief lessons the early disciples learn is that following Jesus literally means to follow him. This is significant for the disciples, and for us, because we often reduce our following of Jesus to showing up to church on the weekend and our own personal beliefs. This text challenges us to seek after the “greater things” that Jesus promises by being a church on the move.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your “highs” and “lows” with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.
- What did you hear tonight? What is the one thing from the message that stuck out to you or made you think in a different way?
- Where does what we talked about map onto what is happening in your life experience right now? Where does your life experience right now map onto what is happening in the text?
- Do you think that anyone would notice that there is anything different about you based on your faith? How would they know that? While our outward behavior doesn’t change God’s love for us, do you think that how we behave matters for those who don’t know Jesus? Why?
- Verse 35 - What are the people in your life that are leading you into a deeper relationship with Jesus? If you don’t know who that person is, then you do you think you could reach out to?
- Verse 35 - If you were standing on a street corner and Jesus walked by, what would be your first question? What would you want from Jesus?
- Verse 39 - After the disciples ask Jesus where he is staying, Jesus says, “come and see.” This is an invitation to young people that are not totally sure about the situation to “check it out.” Do you identify with these two disciples? What would be at stake for you if you were to try following Jesus?
- Verse 40 - Andrew goes to find his brother, Simon Peter, to tell him to come and see Jesus. Have you ever shared



about your faith with your siblings? What was that like? Have they ever shared about their faith with you? Why or why not?

- Verse 42 - Who gave you your name? What does your name mean? In the ancient world, the ability to rename someone was a sign of special authority or power. Here Jesus renames Simon Peter, "Cephas," which means "rock" to symbolize the role he will have in the early church. If Jesus were to rename you, what name would he give you to symbolize your role in the church?
- Verse 46 - Nathanael, after he was invited by Phillip to come and see Jesus, was mildly shocked that someone important (verse 45) could come from that town. We all have assumptions about people based on where they are from and that was no-doubt true in Jesus' way. Maybe even more so. Our student ministry has students from nearly 50 schools. Do you think that zip codes and school district reputations get in the way of our being a better community? Why? What would need to change to make it better?
- Verse 47 - Nathanael approaches Jesus and is immediately amazed at the way that Jesus knows him before Nathanael has really had a chance to know Jesus. How does that describe your relationship to Jesus? If Jesus is sure about who you are and his relationship to you before you are sure about your relationship with him, then what does that mean to you?
- Verse 49 - Shortly after Jesus reveals what he knows about Nathanael, Nathanael begins to ascribe a bunch of weighty titles to Jesus, "rabbi," "son of God," and "king of Israel." What titles do you ascribe to Jesus? What do those titles mean to you?
- Verse 51 - Way back in the fall, Russ talked through the story of Jacob wrestling with God to teach us about how we are to wrestle with the bible. Here, Jesus makes a connection with that story, but for a different purpose. Read Genesis 28:16-19. The place where heaven meets earth is called "Bethel." "Bethel" means "house of God." Here Jesus is comparing himself with Bethel. In other words, Jesus is saying that where he is, God is. Boom. Mind blown. If you read the first chapter of John, then you will see the author trying to give words to how Jesus is one with God. Here is one of the first places where Jesus makes that connection in public. The rest of the gospel we will follow the disciples wrestle with what this means. You are invited to wrestle along side of them.



# EXTRAS

## New Year, New You

**What You Need:** Pen and Paper or a phone with a note taking app. A Bible.

**What you Do:** Read Isaia 43:19 in any translation. Sometimes we think that whenever we start something that changes or improves us, that the decision to do so began in that moment. If we're honest, though, the desire to see that change has been brewing for quite some time before that moment. I think that is God working in us to change us into the life-bringing follower the world so desperately needs. So, at the beginning of this new year, what life-change is God stirring in you? Write that down on your paper or in your note taking app on your phone and come back to it every morning before you leave and when you go to bed at night. Pray for God to give you the energy and the courage to make that change in a way that lasts so that the world might know the life you have been made to shine.

# JUST FOR FUN

## The Countdown Knockdown

**What You Need:** Pantyhose, 12 solo cups, ball or weighted object.

**What You Do:** Place the cups in a circle around the player like the hours of a clock. Place a ball or weighted object into one leg of the pantyhose. The player will have 60 seconds to knock over or out of place all of the cups.