



## John 1:35-51 Small Group Questions

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- In 1:35-37, John the Baptist's disciples stop following him to follow Jesus. What causes them to turn and follow Jesus? Why do you think that made them follow Him?
- The first words of Jesus in John's Gospel come in verse 38. He asks John the Baptist's disciples, "what are you seeking?" Why do you think John chose these to be the first words from Jesus in this Gospel?
  - Ben mentioned that everyone is seeking something: what kinds of things do you see people in Washington, DC seeking?
  - What kinds of things do you find yourself seeking?
  - What does it look like to seek Jesus above all other things?
- When the disciples ask Jesus where He is staying, He replies, "come and see." When did you come and see Jesus for the first time? What was it about Him that interested you?
  - In your life, how do you help those who don't know Jesus "come and see"?
  - How does genuinely coming and seeing Jesus differ from checking him out from a distance?
  - Ben mentioned that those who really come and see Jesus either end up loving Him or hating Him; there's no in-between. What is it about Jesus that inspires such strong positions? Why is it impossible to be merely indifferent about Him?

- When Jesus meets Cephas, He names him “Peter,” meaning rock. Why does Jesus decide to call Him this?
  - Ben claimed that when God names someone, He usually does so prophetically. What are other examples of a prophetic naming or renaming in the Bible? (Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul, etc.).
  - Have someone read John 15:14-16. What does Jesus rename all disciples—including us—in these verses? What does this prophetic renaming say about who we are to Jesus? What does it mean that we are friends with Him?
- When Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus, Nathanael is initially skeptical. Why? What are some things that make people skeptical about Jesus today?
- Nathanael completely shifts from a position of skepticism to faith when Jesus tells him that He saw him under the fig tree. Why do you think this one simple comment moved Nathanael so much?
  - Ben discussed that some people think that this statement moved Nathanael so much because his moment under the fig tree was intensely personal, something that no one would know about normally. Why does it matter that Jesus sees our most personal, difficult, or challenging moments?
  - Ben mentioned that in those hard moments, we are not alone because Jesus is there with us. What does this mean? And how does this knowledge help us persist in times of suffering?
  - It seems, then, that a personal encounter with Jesus caused Nathanael to move from skepticism to belief. How does this inform how we think about evangelism and apologetics?
- John 1 ends as Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see “the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” What did Ben say this meant?

- This is another instance where the Gospel of John wants us to understand that we have access to God through Jesus alone. Why is it so crucial that we understand that access to God only comes through Christ?
- How does this truth separate Christianity from other religions?