

Day 2 — Today's Theme: What Are You Looking For?

Read John 1:35–39

What are you looking for?

It's such a basic question, but for lots of people, they might have no idea how to really answer that question. How would you answer that question if someone asked you?

After announcing that Jesus was the Lamb of God, two of John the Baptist's disciples started following Jesus and Jesus turned and asked them that very same question, "What are you looking for?" Here they are, curiously following Jesus, seemingly from a distance, and that question forces them to engage with the Messiah. And it's such an important question to ask. What are you looking for in Jesus?

Some people might be curious to follow Jesus because they're just looking for a pardon for their sins, so they don't go to hell. Some people might be looking for affirmation that they're good people. Some people might be looking for someone to get rid of all their problems in life. Some might be looking for success. But what were those disciples looking for? They asked where Jesus was staying that night. And then they stayed with Him! They weren't looking for Jesus, the Lamb of God.

5. Why do you think Jesus asked them what they were looking for?

6. Do you think there are any wrong reasons to look for Jesus? What do you think would those be?

7. Why do you look for Jesus?

Day 3 — Discover Disciples

Read John 1:41, 43, 45.

When I was growing up I remember playing a game of hide and seek with my cousin, and we absolutely could *not* find her anywhere. We looked for what felt like hours to find her with no luck, to the point that we actually started getting genuinely concerned about where she might have gone. Then finally one of my brothers found her hiding in a baby cradle in the back of a closet, and he ran and called us to come and see where she was!

There are multiple times in this passage that it says that someone was found and invited to come and follow Jesus. John the Baptist's two disciples found Jesus. Andrew found his brother Simon (Peter). Jesus found Philip. Philip found Nathaniel. And then after some doubts, Nathaniel finally found Jesus to be the Son of God! Isn't it interesting how Jesus' disciples were found, or discovered?

John's disciples referred to Jesus as "Rabbi" (which means Teacher). In that day, if you wanted to be a disciple of a Rabbi, you would go seek out that Rabbi and ask him if you could follow him. But Jesus was different! Jesus went and found His own disciples! That's always such a great thing to remember—Jesus found me as His disciple. He chose me to follow Him!

At our church, it is our mission to Discover, Develop, and Deploy Disciples of Jesus Christ. That means we want to be part of the ministry that Jesus started all those years ago in going out into the world and discovering new disciples of Jesus. Have you found Jesus as your "Rabbi" or Teacher? Come and see! Jesus is the Savior!

8. How can you as a teenager invite other people to come and see that Jesus is really the Messiah?

9. How does someone become "found" as a disciple of Jesus?

10. What are some ways we try to Discover Disciples at Village Bible Church?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Have You Answered the Call to Follow?

Read John 1:35–51.

By the end of this passage in John, Jesus has five of His twelve disciples following Him, yet none of these five had the same story as to how he became Jesus' disciple, except maybe for John the Baptist's two disciples. If you haven't yet, go back and read John 1:35–51 again and pay attention to how each one of them came to know Jesus.

John's two disciples had been following John and listening to his teaching for some time now about this coming Messiah, and finally when He came, they went and followed Jesus for themselves. They had someone in their lives who pointed them to Jesus which ultimately led to them becoming disciples of Jesus! Isn't that true for many of us? Maybe you have someone in your life who has always been teaching you about who Jesus is and finally, you came to the point where you actually started following Jesus yourself. Maybe it was your parents, a friend, a Sunday School teacher, or even one of your youth leaders.

Simon Peter came to follow Jesus because his brother Andrew got his attention and told him he had to come and see for himself! I know for some people (maybe even you) that's very similar to their story. Perhaps you had a family member or close friend who became a follower of Jesus and they invited you to come and see for yourself and when you did, how could you not follow?

Philip's story is different. Jesus actually found Philip directly and told him to follow. For many people that's how they came to know Christ. Seemingly going about their lives as usual, Jesus came into their life in an unexpected way and changed everything. They didn't have a Christian family or friends. But clearly Jesus had a plan for their lives and took care of the rest.

Even still there's Nathaniel. Nathaniel's friend, Philip, had tried to convince him that Jesus was the legit Savior, but Nathaniel was skeptical. He had his doubts and his concerns. It took some special divine revelation to get ahold of Nathaniel's heart.

Each of them had a different story but in the end, they all ended up following Jesus. Many of us today have different stories about how we came to Christ, but at the end of the day, all those stories are glorious because they all end with another disciple who has been found!

11. What is your story about how you came to Jesus?

What was your life like before you were saved by Christ?

How did you come to find Jesus?

How has Jesus changed your life since you've become His disciple?