

FOLLOWERS

WEEK 3 — AN EPIC CALLING

AUGUST 16, 2026

Main Point:

Jesus invites us to see God.

This Week's Message:

Jesus may have looked fully human, but He was also fully God. This dichotomy can make our brains hurt, which is what the disciples experienced as they followed Him. But the simple truth is that when we see Jesus, we see God.

Scripture:

John 1:43-51; Genesis 28:12-13; John 14:7-9b

This Month's Memory Verse:

"You were chosen to do good even if you suffer. That's because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example that he expects you to follow." 1 Peter 2:21

Provided Videos: See www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources

- Game Video: Match It – Back to School
- Bible Story Video: Who Were the Twelve Disciples?
- Review Quiz Video
- Worship Video: Kids
- Worship Video: Runnin
- Worship Video: Praise You Anywhere

Suggested Order of Service:

1. Game Video – 3 Min
2. Icebreaker Activity – 5 Min
3. Message – 25 Min Total
 - a. Lesson – 15 Min
 - b. Bible Story Video – 2 Min
 - c. Discussion Time – 5 Min
 - d. Review Quiz Video – 3 Min
4. Memory Verse Activity – 10 min
5. As time allows:
 - a. Work on Take-Home Page
 - b. Worship Videos

GAME VIDEO:

Make it Match

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

You'll need a blow up beach ball. Have a question on each colored section of the ball written in permanent marker (or you can have a list of questions). Students can sit or stand depending on the setup of your space. A circle works well and encourages face to face engagement. You can do more than one circle if your group is large.

Say, "Who loves to play at the beach? So do we! But we'll have to settle for throwing around a beach ball today. We've written some questions on each section, and as we throw the ball around to each other you'll answer whichever one is facing you when you catch it. Got it? If you get the ball, you can roll or throw it to a person who hasn't answered a question yet. Let's see what fun things we can find out!"

Questions:

- What country would you like to visit?
- What is your favorite thing to do on the weekends?
- Tell us something fun you did over summer break.
- In what other country would you like to live?
- What famous person would you like to meet and why?
- What do you want to be when you grow up and why?
- Describe your dream birthday party.
- What 3 wishes would you ask from a magic genie?
- Who would you most want to be like and why?

LESSON:

Main Point:

Jesus invites us to see God.

Scripture:

John 1:43–51; Genesis 28:12–13; John 14:7–9b

Play Lesson Video Here

Introduction

Have you ever heard the expression, “If you’ve seen one, you’ve seen them all”? This phrase would hold true for the first century rabbis of Jesus’ day. They called their disciples to follow them, and to learn about God’s Law.

But Jesus is different. Instead of teaching his disciples to follow God’s laws, he taught them to follow him, because Jesus *is* God. And he had a way of teaching His disciples that was totally different from all the other rabbis.

His purpose for training His disciples was quite different! Other rabbi’s disciples knew about God’s laws. But Jesus’ disciples knew *God*.

Transition

But everything wasn’t crystal clear to them at first. They knew that Jesus was different and came from God. They just needed some time for it to sink in, and actually come to life in their minds. And Jesus started teaching them about this from the very beginning.

John 1:43–45

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

First, let's recognize just how sharp Philip was because he was able to connect the prophecies about the Messiah to Jesus. Philip was obviously excited, so he went to his friend Nathaniel, to bring him in on the great news about God's Messiah.

Imagine this. You are a first-century Jew in Israel. Your people are oppressed and mistreated by the Romans and by their own leaders. But hundreds of years ago, God promised to send his Messiah; a Savior who would make everything right. Then one day, a friend comes to you and says, "We've found God's Messiah!"

How would you react to the news? Well, here's how Nathanael reacted.

John 1:46a

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

Nathanael made snarky remarks about Jesus' hometown. There was nothing special about Nazareth. It was a small, quiet town in the countryside. So Nathanael was a little bit skeptical about what Philip was telling him.

John 1:47-48a

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

After first meeting Jesus, Nathanael was still skeptical. When Jesus gave him a compliment, Nathanael was like, "You don't know me."

John 1:48b-49

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

Nathanael was amazed that Jesus knew he had been sitting under a fig tree earlier that day. He was so impressed that he immediately declared Jesus to be the Son of God. But Jesus went on to tell Nathanael that he hadn't seen anything yet.

John 1:50-51

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Jesus was telling Nathanael that he'd see heaven open up and angels flying up and down? That may sound crazy, but Jesus was talking about something specific, and a Jewish man like Nathanael knew exactly what it was. Way back toward the beginning of the Old Testament, a man named Jacob had a vision from God.

Genesis 28:12-13a

[Jacob] had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac."

This vision is a famous moment in Israel's history. Jacob had to flee from his home because his angry brother was planning to kill him. He was alone in the wilderness and uncertain about his future.

And Jacob had created this whole desperate situation himself.

Then, in a dream, God pulled back the curtain of heaven to let Jacob know that he is behind the scenes, powerful, and at work. Jacob saw God.

This was Jesus' message for Nathanael; "You are going to see God."

Because to see Jesus is to see God, and to know Jesus is to know God. In Jesus, God pulls back the curtain of heaven to show us what He is like. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the exact representation of God's being.

But it took the disciples a while to understand this. Even after a few years of following Jesus, Philip still didn't get it. Jesus explained it to them...

John 14:7

If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Here, Jesus plainly told his disciples that he and God are the same. And here's how Philip reacted to that...

John 14:8

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

The guy just didn't get it. So Jesus said it again, just with different words...

John 14:9b

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Conclusion

Jesus wanted His disciples to know this, get this, and live by this. The invitation to follow Him wasn't just about following his teachings. It was about being with God, and knowing God personally. And that same invitation is given to us. Even though we can't physically see Jesus right now, we see how He lived, which means we can see how God lived in human form. And because his Spirit is with us, we can know God personally. To know Jesus is to know God.

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for inviting us to see you by seeing Jesus.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could create an Olympic sport, what would it be?
2. Who did Jesus see under the fig tree?
3. How did Nathanael react to hearing that Jesus was from Nazareth?
4. Which disciple still couldn't understand that Jesus is God?
5. What do you think Nathanael thought when Jesus told him he would see greater things?
6. How is Jesus' proof of being God sufficient?
7. In what ways does Jesus' life show us that He is God?

REVIEW VIDEO

MEMORY VERSE CARD GAME ACTIVITY:

"You were chosen to do good even if you suffer. That's because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example that he expects you to follow." 1 Peter 2:21

Printed cards are provided for the memory verse games. There are 3 stacks of cards – one is easier, one is harder, and one is words that are not in the verse to make it harder for kids as needed. See the Memory Verse Card Games Guide for a variety of games you can choose from to help your students memorize the verse in fun and interactive ways.