

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 7: Destinations

QUESTION 1

For a second week in a row, we are discussing the third principle of following Jesus. That principle reminds us that Jesus is leading us to a purposeful destination. We began by looking at the “follow me” story in **John chapter 1**. Please take a moment to read this scripture aloud, then discuss the questions below.

John 1:35-39, 43-49 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.
³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon... ⁴³ The next day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ 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.” ⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

In this story, we see an interesting progression. First, Jesus and then Philip invite potential disciples to come and see before they are asked to follow Jesus. This progression reminds us that some people have a dramatic moment when they come to Jesus, and for others, it’s a process of learning about him and eventually deciding to follow him. Take a moment to discuss the scripture and how you came to faith in Christ. Was there a dramatic moment or more of a progression?

QUESTION 2

Another goal that Jesus desires for us could be described as enlightenment and understanding. Jesus, the light of the world, wants us to comprehend life, what is truly important, and how to live a life pleasing to God. **John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** Take some time to discuss this verse. What do you think it means when Jesus says He is the light of the world? What does it mean that if you follow Him, you will never walk in darkness? What does it mean that if you follow Jesus, you will have the light of life?

QUESTION 3

Let's take a moment to look at another destination that Jesus guides us toward. In the Old Testament, it says, **Psalms 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed."** In **Luke 4**, Jesus states His mission by reading from **Isaiah 61**. It says: **Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners."** Take some time as a group to discuss what it means to feel brokenhearted. And if you're brave enough, share a story about a time when you felt your heart was truly broken. What does it mean to you that God is close to the brokenhearted, and that Jesus came to bind up or heal broken hearts?

QUESTION 4

The last destination we will discuss today reminds us that Jesus brings eternal life. **John 10:27-28 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.** Take some time to discuss this verse. How does it affect you to know that you are secure? That no one can snatch you away from Jesus and that He gives eternal life to those who follow Him?

Jesus often connects the gift of eternal life with the idea of knowing Him. For example, in **John 17** Jesus states: **John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.** Please discuss this as a group.