

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

Come and See the King

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 06 · October 18, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John moves from the Baptist's declaration to Jesus' own invitation. Jesus' first words are a question ("What are you seeking?"), His first invitation is "Come and you will see," and His first "truly, truly" claims that He is the ladder between heaven and earth. Everyone who truly sees Him goes and brings someone else.

Read together: John 1:35–51 · Genesis 28:10–17 · Genesis 32:27–28 · John 20:24–29. Memory verse: John 1:46.

Time: 25–30 minutes. Let them wrestle with question 9. The goal is honesty about who they're not inviting, not a right answer.

WARM UP

1. **Jesus' first recorded words in John are "What are you seeking?" If you answered with total honesty, what are you actually looking for right now: in church, in friendships, in life?**

Pastor Jeff named courtesy, kindness, escape, protection, understanding. Don't rush past this one; it sets up everything else.

THE INVITATION

2. **The two disciples don't answer Jesus' question directly; they ask, "Where are you staying?" What were they really asking for? Why does Jesus answer, "Come and you will see," instead of explaining Himself?**

They wanted time with Him, not information about Him. Jesus invites before He explains.

3. **John records the exact hour ("about the tenth hour," roughly 4 p.m.). He was one of the two. Why would an eyewitness detail like that matter for a book whose stated purpose is "that you may believe" (John 20:31)?**
4. **Andrew found Simon; Philip found Nathanael; the hint in verse 41 ("he first found his own brother") suggests John went and got James. The gospel spreads one relationship at a time. Why do you think God designed it that way instead of something bigger and faster?**

KNOWN BY JESUS

5. **Jesus renames Simon "Cephas / Peter" — Rock — years before he acts like one. Compare that to God renaming Jacob "Israel" (Genesis 32:28). What does it say about Jesus that He names people for who they will become?**
6. **Jesus calls Nathanael "an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit." Jacob's name means "deceiver"; Israel means "one who strives with God." Pastor Jeff paraphrased it: "one who strives with God, in whom there is no Jacob." What is Jesus saying about Nathanael, and why does it matter that Jesus says it before Nathanael has said anything?**
Jesus already knew him. People think they have to clean up before they come; He already sees everything and still says "Come."
7. **Nathanael's objection ("Can anything good come out of Nazareth?") was based on real Bible knowledge: the Messiah was supposed to come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He was right**

about the text and wrong about Jesus. Where do people today reject Jesus on the basis of something they think they know?

- 8. Jesus' first "Truly, truly" points Nathanael to Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28:12) and says the angels ascend and descend "on the Son of Man." Jesus is claiming to be the ladder: the one connection between heaven and earth. How does that fit with what John said in 1:14 and 1:18?**

Leader note: the "you" in verse 51 is plural. Jesus is speaking past Nathanael to every reader. Also note the title Nathanael uses, "King of Israel," which is the title on the cross in 19:19. John bookends the gospel with it.

SO WHAT

- 9. John opens with Nathanael, a skeptic, and closes with Thomas, a doubter (John 20:24–29). Both got the same answer: come and see for yourself. Who is the one person you are not inviting because you assume they'd say no, or because you don't think you could answer their questions?**

Philip couldn't answer Nathanael's objection either. He didn't have to. Name the person.

THIS WEEK

Be an Andrew. Be a Philip. Name one person this week and say the words, "Come and see." Invite them to read John with you, to your D-Group, or to sit with you next Sunday. Memorize John 1:46.

Next week: Week 7 · Water Into Wine · John 2:1–12 · October 25, 2026