

ADULT SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Come and See the King

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

LEADER OVERVIEW

Big idea: Jesus invites you to come and see for yourself — and everyone who truly sees Him goes and brings someone else. His first words in John are a question, “What are you seeking?”; His first invitation is “Come and you will see”; and His first “truly, truly” claims He is the ladder between heaven and earth.

Sermon outline: John points his followers to Jesus (vv.35–39) · Brothers invite brothers (vv.40–42) · Jesus calls Philip, Philip invites Nathanael (vv.43–46) · Nathanael encounters Jesus (vv.47–51).

Scriptures used: John 1:35–51 · Genesis 28:10–17 · Genesis 32:27–28 · Micah 5:2 · John 20:24–31 · 1 Timothy 2:5

Time: 60–75 minutes. Eleven questions are more than you need — choose what fits your group and skip freely. Questions in bold are the ones not to skip.

OPENING (10 MIN)

The goal of the opener is to get every voice in the room once before the harder questions arrive. Keep it light.

1. What is the last thing you told someone they “had to” see, try, or hear? What made you want to share it?
2. **Jesus’ first words in John are “What are you seeking?” Pastor Jeff listed honest answers: courtesy, kindness, escape, protection, understanding. If you had answered Jesus honestly the first time you came to church, what would you have said? What would you say today?**

COME AND SEE (20 MIN)

Read John 1:35–42.

3. The disciples answer Jesus’ question with a question: “Where are you staying?” They wanted time with Him more than information about Him. Jesus says, “Come and you will see.” What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and spending time with Him? Which one does your week actually contain more of?
4. **Andrew spends a day with Jesus and the first thing he does is find his brother. Philip does the same with Nathanael. The gospel spreads one relationship at a time. Who brought you? Who have you brought?**
Leader: let people tell the story of who invited them. It is often the most encouraging ten minutes of the night.
5. Jesus renames Simon “Peter” — Rock — years before he lives like one. He is impulsive and hot-headed through most of the gospels. Pastor Jeff said Jesus “saw not who Peter was but who God would refine him to be.” Where have you seen Jesus call someone (maybe you) by who they would become?

KNOWN BY JESUS (20 MIN)

Read John 1:43–51 and Genesis 28:10–17.

6. Nathanael's objection, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?", was partly good theology: the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). He was right about the text and wrong about Jesus. Philip didn't argue; he said, "Come and see." Why is that so often the better answer than winning the debate?
7. **Jesus says, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Jesus knew Nathanael — his sincerity and whatever he was wrestling with — before they ever met. Many people believe they have to clean themselves up before coming to Jesus. How does this scene answer that?**
 Leader: Jesus calls him "an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit." Jacob means "deceiver"; Israel means "one who strives with God." Jesus is saying Nathanael is the real thing, and He knew it before Nathanael said a word.
8. Jesus' first "truly, truly" in John points to Jacob's ladder 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 (see 1 Timothy 2:5). How does that claim change what it means to "come and see"?
 Leader: the "you" in verse 51 is plural; Jesus is speaking to every reader. And "King of Israel," Nathanael's title for Jesus here, is the title Pilate writes over the cross (John 19:19). John bookends the gospel with it.
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. Pastor Jeff said, "He can handle all your questions and doubts." What question or doubt have you been afraid to bring to Jesus, or to this group?**
10. Everyone in this passage came a different way: some sought Christ, some were brought, one was sought by Christ Himself, some came without doubts, one came with them. Which one is your story? Does knowing that change how you expect other people to come?
11. **The one thing every person in this passage did after meeting Jesus was go get someone. Pastor Jeff's homework: name one person and say "Come and see." Who is it, and what is the actual invitation you will make this week?**

CLOSING (5 MIN)

Read John 1:46 together. You don't have to win the argument. You just have to make the introduction. Jesus does the rest.

If someone in your group is the one with doubts this week, let them know this gospel was written for exactly that (John 20:31), and that Jesus' answer to Nathanael and to Thomas was the same: come and see. Then pray together, by name, for the people each person intends to invite.

Then give the week's assignment: 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.

Memory verse: John 1:46. Next week: Week 7 · Water Into Wine · John 2:1–12 · October 25, 2026