

Jesus Begins to Make Disciples and Change Lives, John 1:36-43

As you begin, please take some time for silent, heart-opening prayer... followed by the slow reading of the following passage. Pause after the reading for people to highlight the lines, phrases or words which catch interest. Then read the text slowly again... and move on to answer the suggested questions....

John 1:35-43 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

Suggested Questions:

1. What line, phrases or word does the Spirit seem to be lifting up for you from this reading? Why might these words be important to you now?
2. Thoughts on what John meant when He "preached," or "proclaimed" Jesus "the Lamb of God?"
3. How does Jesus treat the spiritually curious? When you were spiritually curious, what / who was helpful to you and how?
4. Jesus invites the two to "be with" Him... If Jesus were to invite you, or any of us, to be with Him, what would that look like today?
5. Jesus says to Philip, "Follow me..." (Mt 1:43), which Philip does. What did Jesus mean by these two simple words? Today, how does one who says, "Yes," to Christ follow Him?
6. Is there anything from this study that the Holy Spirit is lifting up for you for your own personal following of Jesus?