

come and see

Week 1: Come and See

John 1:35-51

Summary

Encounters with the person of Jesus are so impactful that they can not be kept silent. In the narratives of the Gospels—and captured here in the early passages of John’s Gospel—we see a series of “Come and See” moments like dominos in a row. John the Baptist identifies—the text says “declares”—Jesus as the Lamb of God. John’s discovery and declaration prompts two of his own disciples, Andrew and another, to follow Jesus. They spend time with Jesus and then Andrew finds his brother Simon, bringing him to Jesus (who renames him Peter). Jesus also calls Philip, who then invites Nathanael. Nathanael initially doubts Jesus’s origins but is convinced after Jesus demonstrates unique knowledge of him. Nathanael’s life is turned upside down because Jesus sees him. Within a matter of hours, this unlikely learning community is formed by a series of people encountering Jesus, then saying to someone close to them “Come and See”.

2. Overcoming doubts

Nathanael’s journey from skepticism to belief reminds us that seeking truth can lead to transformative encounters.

For you

In your life, who are the people who said to you, “Come and See”—inviting you to follow Jesus?

- Who invited those people? And how far can you go back in that line of “dominos”?
- Write a note to one or two people who started you on your faith journey with Jesus. If they’ve passed away, maybe write a note to a family member who’s still living and share your gratitude for the legacy of faith passed to you.

For your work

Do you know the “Jesus stories” of your co-workers? Find an appropriate time to ask and share yours over lunch or a cup of coffee.

- The disciple Nathanael was initially skeptical about Jesus. Jesus took time to affirm something specific that he saw in Nathanael. Around you, who needs a word like this from you?

For Students (questions to have in your ‘back pocket’)

- Where are you interacting with the Gospel of John (if anywhere)?

In this week’s John passage, Jesus brings his disciples to follow him. What is your experience with Jesus? When did you start following him? Who were the people who helped you to come to know Jesus?

- Pray for the students you interact with. Pay special attention to them and—when you’re ready—use your voice in their life to speak life. Show them you see them!

Closing. How is this resource working for you? How is God using it to form you? Are there ways we can improve it? How can we pray for you? If you’ve got questions or thoughts, we invite you to be in touch with us. Send us an email at campus-ministries@bethel.edu

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