

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

MARCH 01 2025

come see

Scripture Story: John 1.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 14.
Key Text: John 1:45, 46.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

This week's lesson surveys the chain of events that led individuals to choose to follow Christ as disciples. The ministry of John the Baptist prompted many to pay attention to Jesus. The first disciples, Andrew, John, Philip, and Nathanael, responded to the call to "come and see" for themselves. There is a certainty in this saying that suggests, "I can testify for hours, but the way to know Jesus is to come and see for yourself." Sometimes we think we have to package Jesus in a way that is appealing, inoffensive, and relevant. The disciples in this story will testify that all you need to know you will discover when you meet Jesus.

The dramatic incident with Philip introducing Nathanael to Jesus is significant because it captures the coordination between the human and the divine as Christ makes disciples for His kingdom. Some seek out Jesus while others are sought out and found by the Lord. The words "find" or "found" appears five times in this story. Clearly people were searching for something or someone, and in need of the promise Jesus makes to Nathanael, saying, "You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51).

It is fascinating to watch the "getting to know Him" stage, where disciples come to Jesus with their ideas and even some misconceptions about Christ and discover firsthand who Jesus is. Learning about Christ is the first work of discipleship, and this story is filled with vivid examples for young people.

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Understand that discipleship is a personal choice to learn from Jesus. (*Know)*
- Connect with Christ as the object of all that humanity is searching for. *(Feel)*
- Choose to step into the life of a disciple of Christ. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

Growing in Christ, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, no. 11: "Continually committed to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.)"

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

Invite the students to share their responses to the ranking activity in the *What Do You Think?* section. What methods do you think effectively draw people to Christ? What are some memorable stories you have heard about people finding or being found by Christ?

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then an encounter is worth a million. Backpacking through Yosemite National Park, one can view lakes and glaciers and sights that are breathtaking. Of course, books, paintings—even video footage—capture the scenery, and anyone viewing it would say, "Wow, that's amazing!" On a backpacking trip several young people were setting up the tents and the fire pit while others were gathering wood and doing various duties to set up camp. A couple of other wood gatherers made their way higher and higher up the side of the rocky slope until they reached the crest where they witnessed a sight that arrested them. The crystal-blue lake looked like a giant sapphire set against the forest-green trees with silvery-black granite rocks randomly cropping out. A glorious white snowpack cascaded down the opposite side from the top of the range to the water's edge. The explorers remained for a moment, but the metallic tapping sound of hammers and tent stakes and the muffled noise of chopping wood and the busy work of their companions awakened them from the vision—they had to see this. They yelled down the side of the mountain, "Stop what you are doing and climb the mountain! The view is amazing!" Annoyed that they were working at the setting up of the campsite and that the firewood gatherers had found time to sightsee, they replied, "Just tell us what you see and bring the wood for the fire!" Frustrated, those on the ridgetop cried out, "Just come up here and see for yourselves." Clearly words would not work. So, leaving their hatchets and hammers and campsite rope lying on the ground, they climbed the ridge and witnessed the sight. And to any other backpackers who came through they could only say, "You have to climb the ridge and see for yourself."

How does this story help illustrate the encounter with Christ? Why is it not sufficient to learn about Jesus through the witness of someone else who has a relationship with Him? How is leading others to experience for themselves a genuine relationship with Jesus far better than just telling them about our experience with Him?

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

Perhaps the only way to capture something so great is to witness it firsthand. When the disciples asked about where Jesus was going, He replied, "Come and see." When Philip urged others to meet Christ, he simply said, "Come and see." As followers of Christ, we need that firsthand experience with Jesus, which will prompt us to say the same thing to prospective seekers.

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.*

- As you read this story, what do you think are the key events or moments portrayed in the text?
- Why do you think this scene was mentioned in the Bible?
- In this passage, is there . . .
  - a truth to believe?
  - a challenge to accept?
  - a prayer to pray?
  - an example to follow?
  - a decision to make?
- What words or phrases are repeated in this story?
- How does the challenge "Come and see" contribute to the meaning of the event? What is significant about this saying?
- How did Jesus' response to Nathanael impact this honest seeker after the truth?
- What do you think it means when Jesus says, "You shall see heaven open, and the angels of

God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51).

- What do you think is the message God has for you in this passage?

Use the following as more teachable passages that relate to today's story: John 4:27-29; Matthew 28:1-7; John 1:6, 7, 14, 15, 29, 34; 1 John 1:1-4; Revelation 1:1-3.

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

As you teach this story it helps to have a sense of where John is coming from when penning this story. First of all, John has chosen only the stories that he believes will draw people to receive Christ:

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30, 31). And the last verse of John's Gospel reads: "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen" (John 21:25).

Second, John values the whole concept of being a personal witness—someone who has seen, heard, and experienced firsthand the knowledge of Christ. Note the visual/experiential language in the first chapter alone of John's writings:

John 1:6, 7
John 1:14, 15
John 1:29
John 1:34

Even 1 John 1:1-4 and Revelation 1:1-3 capture John's visual/experiential approach to Jesus.

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

Jigsaw Digest

Whenever there is a large body of reading or a topic that would really provide a rich context for your study, you can use the jigsaw method. Simply divide the pieces that need to be read or examined between individuals or groups of two and invite them to be ready to report a digest version of the content. Whether it is a book or a series of stories or events in an individual's life in Scripture, if each participant in the class takes one part to master and report on, you can usually gain great insights. Also, everyone contributes to learning, which positively changes the dynamics in the room as opposed to the teacher doing all the talking. And finally, to have everyone contribute elevates a young person's sense of value because what they read and said is heard, conveying that their input matters.

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite the students to share the key text with the class if they have committed it to memory.
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Desire of Ages. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that speaks most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quotes in Further Insight *convey the point of the story in this lesson.*

And finally, John takes particular interest in verifying "who Jesus is," even if it is a surprising twist of ideas. Consider how he records Nathanael's response: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Whether this statement is one of cynicism or innocent surprise, the common preconception of Galileans was unfavorable. John 7:39-52 records the board meeting of the Sanhedrin to discuss what to do with Jesus, and throughout their conversation they describe Galileans as a "crowd that does not know the law is accursed" (John 7:49). So as people come to "see for themselves" they "witness" the One they have been waiting for—but Jesus is surprisingly and controversially not what they expected. In fact, Jesus alludes to seeing and doing "greater things than these" in this story (John 1:50) and later when He challenges His disciples in the future (John 14:12).

One final note of context on the Gospel of John has to do with how this story captures the magnetic impact Jesus had on the people that witnessed Him. Have the students scan through the book of John and meet the people who met Christ and "see" how they were transformed. It is possible to jigsaw the book by chapters, giving each student a section and seeing what they see. If they report what they see, it is like being witnesses!

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

Find a picturesque image and have two or three students volunteer to view it. However, they can describe the picture in only 20 words or less. Give them a few minutes to prepare their 20-word description and report. After the students report, ask the class: "Do you think you have an accurate description of the picture (the rest of the class has not yet seen)?" Invite the students who conveyed their 20-word description to share how they felt as they tried to capture the picture in so few words. Show the picture to the class and discuss how seeing firsthand for themselves is the only way to have a relationship with Christ.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

Paul said in Philippians 3 that nothing compares to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. But first you have to meet Him. The disciples' first encounter with Jesus reveals some of the dynamics of human relationships. Initial apprehension. Curiosity. Suspicion. Mystery. But as the disciples spend the day with Jesus they claim: "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (verse 45). "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (verse 49).

The only way to become a disciple of Christ is through a firsthand, come-and-see-for-yourself encounter with Jesus Himself. Those who do are never the same. If you choose to do so today, your witness may bring someone else to Christ.

Global Youth Day: Take the opportunity to announce Global Youth Day. This event will happen on March 15, 2025.

To learn more about Global Youth Day you may visit www.gcyouthministries.org. You may also want to download the Global Youth Day app.



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*),* chapter 14.

*A special adaptation, *Humble Hero*, has been created by the Ellen G. White Estate and the Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Get more info about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

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STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: John 1.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 14.

come see



Photo by Colleen Cahill

keytext

"Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' And Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' "

(John 1:45, 46)

flashlight

"Philip said to Nathanael, 'Come and see.' He did not ask him to accept another's testimony, but to behold Christ for himself. Now that Jesus has ascended to heaven, His disciples are His representatives among men, and one of the most effective ways of winning souls to Him is in exemplifying His character in our daily life. . . . Men may combat and defy our logic, they may resist our appeals; but a life of disinterested love is an argument they cannot gainsay. A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is a power in the world" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 141).

what do you think?

Which of the following do you think has the greatest power to influence others for Christ? Rank them (1 being the most, 5 being the least) according to the influence you think they have over others.

___ to have their questions answered in a biblically clear and coherent manner

___ to observe joy and contentment in the way someone else lives their life

___ to receive help and compassion in a time of need from a believer with no strings attached

___ to discover the truth about Christ through a quality media form

___ to be invited to participate in the social and spiritual activities of a community of faith (church, small groups, socials, etc.)

___ to witness a believer endure faithfully through serious trials and still praise God

Which do you think would compel you to follow Christ? Why?

did you know?

Andrew and John 'followed' Jesus in the sense that they recognized Him to be 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:36, KJV). Andrew and John were the first followers. Soon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael (Bartholomew) joined them."

"Nathanael was one of that small but devout group who earnestly waited for 'the consolation of Israel' (see Luke 2:25) and aspired to the high ideals set before them by God. A true Israelite was not necessarily a literal descendant of Abraham, but one who chose to live in harmony with the will of God (see Acts 10:34, 35)" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 909, 911).

INTO THE STORY

"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!'

"The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you seek?'

"They said to Him, 'Rabbi' (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), 'where are You staying?'

"He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

"One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

"Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, 'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas' (which is translated, A Stone).

"The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow Me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

"And Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

"Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, 'Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!'

"Nathanael said to Him, 'How do You know me?'

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.'

"Nathanael answered and said to Him, 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Because I said to you, "I saw you under the fig tree," do you believe? You will see greater things than these.' And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.' "

(John 1:35-51)

OUT OF THE STORY

As you read this story what do you think are the key events or moments portrayed in the text?

_____

_____

Why do you think this scene was mentioned in the Bible?

In this passage, is there . . .

a truth to believe? _____

a challenge to accept?_____

a prayer to pray? _____

an example to follow? _____

a decision to make? _____

What words or phrases are repeated in this story?

_____

How does the challenge "Come and see" contribute to the meaning of the event? What is significant about this saying?

_____

How did Jesus' response to Nathanael impact this honest seeker after the truth?

_____

What do you think it means when Jesus says, "You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51)?

_____

_____

_____

What do you think is the message God has for you in this passage?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

punch lines

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me" **(Proverbs 8:17).**

"Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons" **(Mark 3:14, 15).**

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" **(Matthew 11:28-30).**

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" **(John 6:37, 38).**

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?' " **(John 11:40).**

further insight

"No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus."—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 141

"A consistent life, characterized by the meekness of Christ, is a power in the world."

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 141

Sabbath

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

When we serve others with genuine love and caring, the love of God transforms and enables us to grow in Christ.

"As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience" (Growing in Christ, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, no. 11).

Read and respond to the activity in the *What Do You Think?* section of this week's lesson. Which do you think causes people to become interested in following Christ?

Scan through the four Gospels or think of three people who were motivated to follow Christ by different means. Even though everyone responds to different aspects of who Jesus is, Christ in Matthew 11:28 calls everyone, saying: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." What kind of rest does Jesus bring? Read also John 14:27. How is the peace that Jesus offers different than the peace that the world gives?

Sunday

Read Psalm 1:1, 2.

As you read the *Into the Story* section and use the questions in the *Out of the Story* section to prompt your study of the text, pay attention to the different types of people who are drawn to Christ. What does Christ do to endear Himself to would-be disciples? Why do you think Jesus said, "Come and see"? Why does Philip repeat the appeal when Nathanael raises the question of where Jesus is from?

What is the message for you in this week's lesson?

Monday

Read Colossians 2:6.

The *Key Text* from John 1:45, 46 conveys the conversation between Philip and Nathanael about whether Jesus could be the Messiah. What do you think Philip was certain about when he said that if Nathanel would just meet Jesus (come and see) that he would be compelled to follow? When in your life have preconceived ideas about a person turned out to be wrong? When have they been correct? Whom do you know that models the simple way in which Andrew and Philip are found bringing people to Jesus?

Tuesday

Read Psalm 77:11, 12.

Read the quote from *The Desire of Ages* in the *Flashlight* section of this lesson. Think about the effectiveness of a person's personal story. When have you been touched by someone's story about how they came to know Christ? If you were to tell one story from your own life about what God has done for you, what story would you tell? Why?

Wednesday

Read Romans 8:38, 39.

As you read the passages listed in the *Punch Lines* section of this week's lesson, what message speaks most prominently to you today?

Thursday

Read Galatians 5:22-25.

Reflect on the interactions Jesus had with the many different types of people throughout the Gospels. Why do you think people were so drawn to Him? If Jesus were here on earth in the same way today, what would draw people to Him? How would He be received?

Friday

Read Ephesians 6:12-18.

Whom do you know that is not a disciple of Christ but you sense it may be the right time in their life to respond? Begin to pray for that person specifically each day and be ready to share your story about why you have chosen to follow Christ. Your testimony has power! Look for an opportunity to invite them to "come and see" for themselves.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages (or *Humble Hero*), chapter 14.

**Humble Hero* is a special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*, created by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press®. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companionbooks#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages series each year.