5

# Finding Friends

Key References: Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 14, pp. 138-143; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 119-125; Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 11, 14















Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 46.

## powertext

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

powerpoint

We can share Jesus with friends.

*When have you been so excited about something you just had to run and tell your best friend? What have you heard about that you really thought your friends ought to hear, too, but weren't sure how to tell them?*

As Jesus began to tell people about the kingdom of God He recognized that there were people everywhere eagerly waiting for His messages of hope.

Jesus knew that with a group of close friends, rightly trained to understand His mission, He could reach out to many more people who longed to hear the good news about God's kingdom. These close friends would benefit from Jesus' companionship day by day and would learn from His life of service to others.

So Jesus set out to choose friends who would be willing to leave everything behind and to follow Him.

One day as Jesus was taking a stroll on the shore of Lake Galilee He spotted in the distance two men throwing a fishing net into the lake. Fishing was the means of making a living for most people living in the coastal regions surrounding the Lake of Galilee, commonly called "the Sea of Galilee." As Jesus came closer to them the men continued working together, and Jesus noticed their great team spirit. Jesus approached the two fishermen with visible admiration for their hard work. Just then the two brothers, Peter and Andrew, looked up,

5

**Sunday**

**READ** Read John 15:15 and this week's story, "Finding Friends."

**DRAW** Draw a large arrow with room in the middle for the power text, John 15:15.

**LEARN** Write the text in the middle of the arrow and place it where you can begin to learn it.

**PRAY** Ask God to show you whom He would have you point to Jesus this week.

**Monday**

**READ** Read Matthew 4:18-20.

**NOTICE** In this story Jesus calls two disciples to follow Him and promises to help them become fishers of men.

**THINK** What do Jesus' words about fishing for people mean to you? How could you share with someone the joy of knowing Jesus personally? Write your answer in your Bible study journal.

**PRAY** Ask God to show you what your special friendship talents are.

**Tuesday**

**READ** Read Matthew 4:21, 22.

**THINK** James and John left everything, including their occupation and their father, and followed Jesus. What can you do to make sure that your heart is fully devoted to Jesus?

**SHARE** Do you have brothers or sisters? Share something about Jesus with each family member today. Perhaps you could read a younger child's Sabbath School lesson to them.

**PRAY** Ask God to help you be a positive influence in your family.

and their eyes met Jesus' friendly gaze. Recognizing their willing spirit, Jesus said to them: "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew understood very well Jesus' words, because they had seen rabbis calling disciples. They immediately recognized in Jesus a religious teacher, though He looked and sounded much different than all the rabbis they had met. Right away they left their fishing nets behind and followed Jesus.

A short distance away Jesus and His new friends spotted three men who were mending their fishing nets in a boat. Peter and Andrew waved and greeted with enthusiasm their fishing companions, James and John. Jesus took notice of how these young men were helping their father, Zebedee, and He knew that James and John would be able to commit to a life of service with Him as well. When Jesus invited them to follow Him, the two brothers showed the first evidence of the lasting devotion they would have to their Master. After saying goodbye to their father, James and John left their family business behind and eagerly followed Jesus.

The next day Jesus came across a man named Philip. Philip was from the same town as Andrew and his brother Simon. "Follow Me," Jesus invited. Again Jesus spent the day making a new friend.

Philip grew excited. As soon as he found an opportunity, he slipped off to find his best friend, Nathanael. He was sure he would find him under the fig tree, praying. Probably praying for the coming of the Messiah. Sure enough, Nathanael was there.

"We have found the one Moses wrote about," he began, trying to catch his



## Wednesday

**READ** Read John 1:43-46.

**WALK** Imagine that Jesus has called you to follow Him. Take a walk today and pretend you are walking with Jesus. Talk to Him silently about the things you see on your walk. Pray for the friends and neighbors you pass.

**SHARE** Think of a close friend you can tell about your walk experience.

## Thursday

**READ** Read John 1:47-49.

**DECLARE** Nathanael declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Have you declared that? In your Bible study journal, write to Jesus what you believe about Him.

**PRAY** Tell God what you believe about Jesus and ask Him to help your understanding grow.

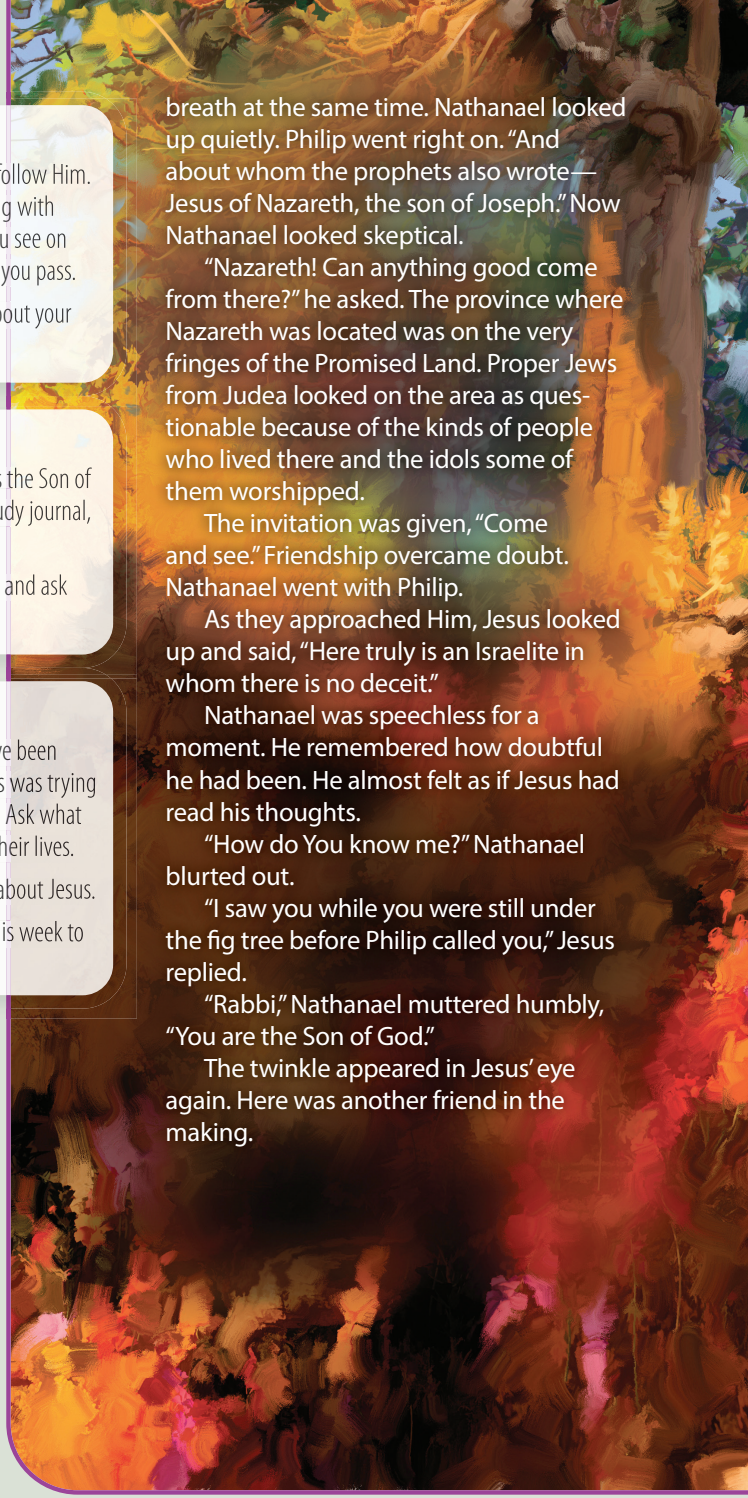
## Friday

**READ** Read John 1:50, 51.

**TALK** Talk with an adult about what you have been studying this week. Ask what they think Jesus was trying to tell Nathanael in the verses you read today. Ask what they believe about Jesus, what He means in their lives.

**SING** With your family, sing a favorite song about Jesus.

**PRAY** Thank God for reminding you again this week to tell others about Him.



breath at the same time. Nathanael looked up quietly. Philip went right on. "And about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Now Nathanael looked skeptical.

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" he asked. The province where Nazareth was located was on the very fringes of the Promised Land. Proper Jews from Judea looked on the area as questionable because of the kinds of people who lived there and the idols some of them worshipped.

The invitation was given, "Come and see." Friendship overcame doubt. Nathanael went with Philip.

As they approached Him, Jesus looked up and said, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

Nathanael was speechless for a moment. He remembered how doubtful he had been. He almost felt as if Jesus had read his thoughts.

"How do You know me?" Nathanael blurted out.

"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you," Jesus replied.

"Rabbi," Nathanael muttered humbly, "You are the Son of God."

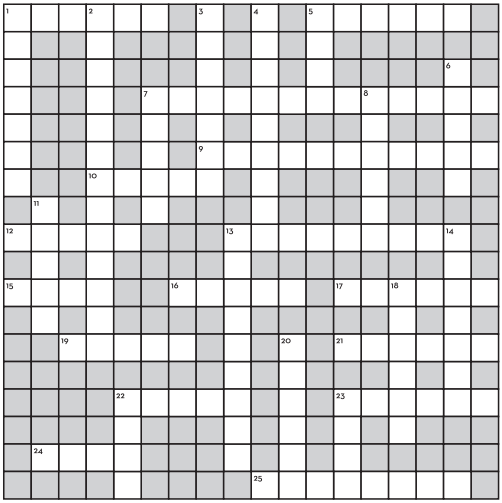
The twinkle appeared in Jesus' eye again. Here was another friend in the making.



PUZZLE 5

# THEY FOLLOWED JESUS

**Word Bank:**
**Demas**
**Gaius**
**Hermes**
**Jude**
**Julia**
**Narcissus**
**Olympas**
**Rufus**



**Across**

1 Loyal (John 11:16) but doubted (John 20:25)
5 Led his friend Nathanael to Jesus (John 1:45)
7 First name the same as another apostle, not Zebedee, two words (Luke 6:15)
9 Caught by a mob with Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:29)
10 See word bank
12 Prayed and sang hymns with Paul at midnight while in jail (Acts 16:25)
13 See word bank
15 See word bank
16 Used a sword the night Jesus was arrested (John 18:10)
17 A disciple of John the Baptist's who led Simon Peter to Jesus (John 1:40, 41)
19 See word bank
21 Sister of Lazarus (John 11:5)
22 Businesswoman who opened her heart to Paul's message (Acts 16:14)
23 One of the women who supported Jesus and the apostles (Luke 8:3)
24 Cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)
25 Introduced Paul to the apostles (Acts 9:27)

**Down**

1 Son of Eunice, grandson of Lois (2 Timothy 1:5)
2 Risen Jesus appeared first to her, two words (Mark 16:9)
3 See word bank
4 Tentmaking friend of Paul, woman (Acts 18:2, 3)
5 Took the gospel to Rome (Acts 28:16)
6 See word bank
7 See word bank
8 See word bank
11 A Greek traveling companion of Paul (Galatians 2:3)
13 Brought to Jesus by Philip (John 1:46)
14 First to die in Christian service (Acts 7:59)
18 Called Tabitha, noted for her good works (Acts 9:36)
20 Male member of tentmaking team that taught Apollos (Acts 18:26)
22 Paul's dear friend, the doctor (Colossians 4:14)
23 Brother of James Zebedee (Luke 5:10)