

Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Rebel’s Rule’s to Following Jesus” (pt. 4) – 2/16/2014

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Bottom Line: True rebels are called by Jesus to follow him.

INTRODUCTION:

How would you respond to someone of extreme importance if they wanted you to drop everything and follow them? Would you panic or immediately start thinking of reasons you couldn't? Would you gladly brush off the pressures of life and say yes? Today we will look at what it was like when Jesus called someone and how that relates to us.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 1:43-45

Philip tells Nathanael, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.” Why is this phrase important not just for them but for every single Christian to know?

- Israel was a country that was built around the teachings found in the Old Testament. When the Bible says “Law of Moses and the prophets” it is really speaking about the entire Old Testament. So when Philip tells Nathanael this, he is really saying that we found the promised leader that our most sacred writings predicted would come. He is here at last!

Read John 1:46-49

What did Nathanael mean by “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Simply that Nazareth wasn't an important place in the Old Testament. The Messiah was supposed to be born in Bethlehem. However, Jesus was born in Bethlehem and then grew up in Nazareth. From the very beginning, Jesus says something personal about Nathanael. When he said “An Israelite in whom there is no deceit”, he is making the point that he knows Nathanael's character and that he is a straightforward, honest person.

Jesus tells Nathanael, “When you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Does Nathanael’s response seem weird to you?

- We don’t actually know what Jesus’ reference to the fig tree means. However, whatever it was, it must have been of massive importance to Nathanael because his response ascribes divinity and kingship to Jesus.

Read John 1:50-51

What’s the connection between Genesis 28:12-14 and these two verses?

- God had chosen Abraham and his family to bless the world and reveal himself to the world through them. Jacob was Abraham’s grandson. God renamed Jacob “Israel” and later Jacob’s descendants took the name Israel to be the name of their country. God had promised to reveal himself to the nations through Israel. That was the meaning of Genesis 28:12-14. Jesus was an Israelite. He is also the Son of God. Here he is telling Nathanael that just as God revealed himself to the nations through Israel, God would now reveal himself to the nations through Jesus. In other words, Jesus is the means by which we learn about and experience God.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Jesus told Nathanael that he would see greater things meaning that he would see the gospel change people, how has God shown you greater things (gospel change) since you have walked with him?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Jesus invites you to join in the work he is already doing. How could you join him in his gospel work?

- Love People.
- Pray for People.
- Bring people to Jesus.
- Serve people well.