

Home Group Leader's Notes

John 1:35-51

Week of January 17, 2021

**LEADERS: I included a long section on the prior passage because some may have missed the backdrop in the previous messages or studies.**

### **LISTENING TO GOD IN THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible is God's story, given to transform us and be the authority in our lives. In short, we believe the Bible to be the words of God. Each week in Home Groups, we spend time learning from and listening to God by focusing on His words.

This week, we are going to look at John 1:35-51. These short stories have key words and patterns that will become a template throughout the book. Enjoy the time listening to God as you think on this passage.

1. Begin by reading through the passage. Keep the introduction (vs.1-34) in mind. Write down some early observations from what you read.

**LEADERS: It might be helpful to let a few people share their own observations. Their own Bible study will have a high impact and we want to value that aspect in our lives.**

2. Summarize what happened in this passage.
  - A. Who was there? B. What was said or done? C. What was the result?
3. List all the descriptions of Jesus in this passage. What is the meaning of each?

**LEADERS: This is what John has emphasized in the entire first chapter. All of it points to the identity and therefore majesty of Jesus Christ. The descriptions are awesome.**

4. Some consider this passage to be a pattern of followership (discipleship) of Jesus. How would you summarize the process from this little passage? What phrases are significant?

**LEADERS: This pattern is still what happens throughout the world. As people understand who Jesus is they invite in their friends and family.**

5. How did Jesus describe Nathanael? Why might Jesus have responded as He did to Nathaniel? How is Jesus' description of Nathaniel significant?

**LEADERS: Nathanael is an example of how the nation of Israel should respond to Jesus when they hear the testimonies and see the signs that Jesus will perform in the next 11 chapters.**

6. What do these Scriptures say about "joy" for people like Andrew and Philip who help people to follow Jesus? See Luke 8:13; 10:17, 21; 15:6-7; John 15:8-11

**LEADERS: Throughout the Scriptures and church history, followers of Jesus experience great joy as they help others to know, love, and follow Jesus.**

## **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

How did you become a follower of Jesus? Who played similar roles as the Baptizer, Andrew, or Philip in your life? What and who first drew you to Jesus?

**LEADERS: Hearing one another share about this is helpful to your relationships as well as your missional spirit.**

If the author means for this passage to become a template of discipleship (followership), what is the process? What does it include or not include? How did each of these people learn of Jesus? What then happened?

**LEADERS: You know the process: People learn of Jesus through others and through the Word. They come to know who Jesus is and engage in a personal relationship with Him. In time, their love for Jesus compels them to obey, trust Him. This results in them following Jesus in mission, in daily life, and transformation of character.**

As we walk through “the gospel of John,” we will regularly look at what it means to “believe” in Jesus (cf. 20:31). What are your early observations about discipleship / followership from this passage?

**LEADERS: These first four disciples become examples of what it means to “believe.” This question is intended to look closely at their early response to Jesus as well as look forward to their continued response.**

In this passage we see people with a seeking attitude. Who might this be in your world?

**May our Father help us to see the glory of Jesus,**

**Steve**