



Lesson 172

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Story Elements

- **Text:** John 1:35-51
- **Setting:** circa 26 AD in Judea and Galilee
- **Characters:** God, Jesus, John the Baptist, John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael
- **Plot:** Jesus calls several men to be his first disciples days.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ me”
- **Climax:** *John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*

Jesus Calls Andrew and John

1. (vv. 35-37) As John the Baptist preached, he declared as Jesus walked by, “Behold, the _____ of God!” Two of the Baptist's disciples, Andrew and John, took note of such an important proclamation and began to follow Jesus instead.
 - (a) We know one of the disciples was Andrew because he is named (vs. 40)
 - (b) We know the other was John because he never names himself in his Gospel. We are also given a hint to the identity of this unnamed disciple by the fact that John gives the very _____ of the day in which these events occurred – a specific detail that indicates a personal and precious memory.
2. (vv. 38-39) As the two followed Jesus they are asked, “What seek ye?” Such a simple question was aimed at deeper issues. The two men quickly realized that what they had found was the _____.

Jesus Calls Peter

3. (vv. 41) Not long after Andrew met Jesus, he went to his brother _____ and said, “We have found the Messiah!” And Andrew brought Simon to Jesus.
4. (vv. 42) Jesus, knowing his purpose and plan, declared to Peter, “Thou shalt be called _____.” Jesus was not only changing his name, he was foretelling the important role that Peter would play in the founding of the Church.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

5. (vs. 43) The next day, in Galilee, Jesus found Philip and said, or rather demanded, “Follow me.” Philip was from _____, Peter and Andrew's hometown.
6. (vv. 44-45) Philip then went to Nathanael and announced, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of _____, the son of Joseph.” Philip was referring to well known Messianic prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Jeremiah 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

- (a) (vs. 46) Nathanael was skeptical, and retorted, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Galileans were generally despised by the Jews of Judea, but even the Galileans despised the rustics of Nazareth. Christians were later contemptuously referred to as the “sect of the _____.” (Acts 24:5) Philip countered Nathanael's skepticism by simply saying, “Come and see.”
- (b) (vv. 47-49) Nathanael's skepticism soon melted away in the light of Christ's divine knowledge – not only did Jesus know his Nathanael's character, he knew something about him that no other person could have known. Why do you think Jesus mentioned Nathanael's sitting under a fig tree? _____
- (c) (vv. 50-51) Jesus assured Nathanael that would see even greater evidence of his divinity saying “ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” Jesus was referencing the story of Jacob's _____ in Gen. 28:12.

Applications and Observations

- 7. The first disciples of Jesus were friends and family. How important is it that we share our faith with those to whom we are _____!
- 8. This story portrays for us the majestic _____ of salvation: God calls, and we call; God seeks, and we seek; God initiates and we respond. God wills, and we will. These things at first seem like they can't be true at the same time, but they are. In this story, Jesus is pursuing and being pursued.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “follow” • 1. Lamb; b. hour • 2. Messiah • 3. Simon • 4. Cephas • 5. Bethsaida • 6. Nazareth; a. Nazarenes; b. It could be that he was recently praying or meditating beneath a fig tree; c. ladder • 7. closest • paradox

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.