

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ extend Christ's invitation to others.

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1:43-51

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Gospel message. He was tasked with the honor of introducing the Messiah to God's chosen people, Israel. His message was one of repentance and getting ready for the arrival of the Christ. John's God-given authority drew people from all over to hear him speak about the coming Christ. When Jesus arrived, John quickly pointed to Jesus and said, "There he is, the one I've been telling you about, the Lamb of God." As John and Andrew did before, Philip invited Nathanael to come and see the Messiah for himself.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/933475856>



OPENING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MEDIA AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

1. Play background music (optional)
2. Display **SERIES TITLE Slide** and announcement slides in a loop or customize the provided **PowerPoint**.
3. Play a 5-minute Countdown Timer 5:00 minutes before you start.

GAME or ICE BREAKER

Based on your group's size, choose a **Game** from **Deep Discipleship Games** OR use the **Ice Breaker** prompt.

- **Game**—We recommend **Be the First** or choose another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**
- **Ice Breaker**—Have you ever invited someone to an event, hoping they'd say yes, but you got a "no" instead? How did that feel?

DEEP DISCIPLESHIP GAMES

Find free games in **Deep Discipleship Games**. It's already included with your Deep Discipleship subscription. View the game in advance in case you need supplies or slides.

WORSHIP

Craft a time of worship with a live band or sing along to a playlist.

- Check out our curated Spotify list. We understand that every church has a different theological view of worship. These songs are suggestions, please pick what works best for your church.
- <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2xmeIKGUjkEE7bJYSCbRwe?si=d254ec715a4749e5>

SLIDES (optional)

Use **SERIES Background & Blank Slides** or **PowerPoint** to create lyric slides.

TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Include a brief element that transitions students from worship to teaching time, like a prayer or video. This will keep students focused and prepared for the message while the band leaves the stage.

VIDEO (optional)

Show **SERIES Promo Video** or **LESSON Intro Video** after the last worship song.

MESSAGE

Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.

POINT 1: Disciples make disciples

Read or have someone in your group read John 1:43–46

Jesus invited Philip to follow him. Philip knew Jesus was much more than a Rabbi. He was the one they had been waiting for, the Messiah! Philip had seen the power and love of Jesus and would never be the same. When we experience Jesus, we can't keep him to ourselves. The mark of a true disciple of Jesus is the desire to go and make more disciples. We tend to share what we love (including Jesus) with others.

ILLUSTRATION: Share a personal story about something you were so excited about you couldn't keep it to yourself (Examples: getting into your dream college, making the team, getting the grade you worked for on the final exam, accepting the job, etc.)

As our relationship with Christ grows stronger and more important to us, we will naturally start to talk about him more with others.

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint OR the Background & Blank Slides** to create these slides to support your message:

- John 1:43–46
- Point 1

POINT 2: A simple invitation is a powerful evangelistic tool

Read or have someone in your group read John 1:46

The best proof of our relationship with Jesus is a changed life, not that we know all the answers to every Bible question. What kind of invitation did Philip give to Nathanael? He told him to “come and see.” Did you notice that Philip didn't argue or get offended when Nathanael showed his prejudice against people from Nazareth. He wanted Nathanael to come and see for himself. Philip knew that if Nathanael experienced Jesus for himself, everything could change for him too!

SLIDES (optional)

- John 1:46
- Point 2

POINT 3: What if they say “no”?

Read or have someone in your group read John 1:46

Nathanael wasn't angry at Philip's invitation to meet Jesus, but he was skeptical. This didn't offend Philip, he simply invited Nathanael to “come and see.” When we invite someone to see for themselves, there isn't really room for argument. We open the door and let Jesus take over. We don't need to worry if they'll accept or reject the invitation. That's between them and God.

SLIDES (optional)

- John 1:46
- Point 3



ILLUSTRATION: Share a story about a time you invited someone to church or youth group, and even though they declined, your friendship continued.

Jesus loved people whether they loved him or not. Our friendships with others shouldn't end if they reject our invitation to meet Jesus. Who knows, God may use our friendship with them to change their hearts.

POINT 4: Jesus knows and loves the unsaved

Read or have someone in your group read John 1:47–51

Nathanael had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Notice that Philip wasn't even a part of the conversation. Philip extended a simple invitation, and Jesus did the rest. Nathanael's spiritual eyes were opened because of a real encounter with Jesus, not because of a well-formulated argument with Philip. A simple invitation to "come and see" might be what unbelieving friends and family need to start a relationship with Jesus.

SLIDES (optional)

- John 1:47–51
- Point 4

CLOSING

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ extend Christ's invitation to others.

SLIDES (optional)

- Mark of a Disciple

FACILITATOR NOTE: DO YOU HAVE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION RIGHT AWAY?

- If YES, then **STOP HERE**, divide into groups, and provide Small Group Leaders with the **Small Group Breakout Questions** on the next page.
- If NO, then end your gathering with the **Reflect & Respond** questions and **Prayer** prompt below.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Give the students time to silently think through what they have heard and contemplate these questions:

- Is there someone in your life you can invite to "come and see" who Jesus is?
- What might that look like?

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint OR the Background & Blank Slides** to display the **Reflect & Respond** questions.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Don't rush this part. Give the students a few minutes to really consider the opportunities they have within their own circles to invite unbelieving family members and friends to "come and see" who Jesus is.

PRAYER

Take time to pray. Pray for students to be so moved and excited about what Jesus is doing in their lives and who he is that they can't help but invite others to come and see for themselves.



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT (OPTIONAL)

Pick a few questions from each section to discuss. Close with prayer.

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**Build Meaningful Relationships**

- Think about that invitation to “come and see.” Who extended that invitation to you?
Answers will vary, but it could include multiple people.
- What do you wish you could help people who don’t know Jesus understand about him?
Answers will vary, but some examples might be: he loves us more than we can comprehend, he forgives completely, he changes people’s lives, he extends the free gift of salvation to everyone, etc.

Share Personal Stories & Ask Intentional Questions

- In what ways has Jesus changed your life?
Answers will vary but could include: the way I talk to and about people, the way I treat people, I no longer feel alone, I have peace instead of anxiety, my priorities are different, etc.
- What excites you about Jesus?
Answers will vary but could be things like: talk about my faith, lead a Bible study, go on mission trips, attend church, break bad habits/addictions, etc.
- Other than inviting people to church, how can you invite people to “come and see” Jesus?
You can introduce others to Jesus through how you live. The way you love them, encourage them, speak freely of what God has done and is doing in your life, offer to pray for them, remind them that God loves them and that he knows them by name, etc. You can also invite them to a Bible study or offer to read through one of the Gospels with them so they can “see” for themselves who Jesus is in the Scriptures.

Make Life Application & Hold Students Accountable

- Who in your life doesn’t know Jesus? How can they see him through your friendship this week?
Don’t hold back when talking about God in everyday conversation. The more you are with Jesus, the more he will naturally come up in your conversations. Let others see that God is at work in your life and that it is possible to do life with him.
- What can you do to help you face the fear of others rejecting your offer to “come and see” Jesus?
Answers will vary, but understanding that you don’t have the ability to save anyone, only God does, relieves some pressure. Memorize verses about having courage and God being with us. Remember that every invitation and every work done for God’s Kingdom honors and pleases him!

PRAYER

Take time to pray. Pray for students to be so moved and excited about what Jesus is doing in their lives and who he is that they can’t help but invite others to come and see for themselves.

Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.

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