



greater things

SPIRIT-LED INNOVATION

Worship Resource Week 2

Sermon Title: Come and See

Scripture: John 1:35-39 (Common English Bible)

35 ...John was standing...with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated Teacher), where are you staying?"

39 He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

40 One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ).

42 He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." 44 Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth."

46 Nathanael responded, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?"

Philip said, "Come and see."

Worship Promo:

Jesus never forced his message, never required anyone to believe in him, never pressured disciples to follow them. Instead, he offered a simple invitation, "Come and see." This invitation echoes throughout the Gospel of John. But while it starts with Jesus, the invitation always gets wider. This week in worship, we'll see how Jesus' invitations are shared and answered, so that we might understand what Jesus' invitation is to us now.

Desired Outcome:

Community members will learn about the beginning of Jesus' ministry as shared in the Gospel of John. From this, they will learn from his example of noticing, engaging, and inviting as a way of engaging in the ordinary miracle of relationship-building.

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Reflection Question:

Who in our community is longing to be noticed, to be engaged, and to be invited into life-giving relationship?

Sermon-Building Key Points (including any references for exegesis)

- Last week, in John 14:12, we heard Jesus' expectation that his disciples (both then and now) will do "greater things" than him.
- We learned that Jesus' deepest desire was for people to believe that God could be present to us through him.
- But how do we do "greater things" than Jesus?
- Let's look to the beginning of Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of John.
- In this passage at the beginning of John, we see Jesus calling his first disciples.
- Jesus begins the relationship simply:
 - He notices the people who are following him, who are paying attention to what he is doing. He doesn't ignore them.
 - He engages, asking them "What are you looking for?" It's an invitational question. Jesus doesn't try to sell himself or his message. He lets the disciples name what they are looking for in their own words.
 - He invites them to "Come and see." Jesus invites the disciples into relationship, to find the answer to their question by witnessing his life in action.
- It's a simple pattern: notice, engage, invite.
- But as we see in today's passage, it has an impact, a chain reaction of invitations:
 - Jesus to the two followers, Andrew to Simon Peter, and Philip to Nathanael.
 - And we hear Philip echoing Jesus as he invites Nathanael to "come and see" what this Jesus community is all about.
- Though it's not as flashy as changing water to wine, the ordinary miracle of "come and see" is evident in our community today.
- Each of us responded to a "Come and see," from someone, at some time, who invited us to see for ourselves what a life of faith looked like or who invited us to meet Jesus through them.
- For Jesus, sharing the truth of God's presence in our lives is the greatest thing we can do.
- And the best way to do this is by building a relationship with those who take an interest in how we go about our lives. The people who look up to us, the people who want to "come and see."
- Our task, then, is simply to do what Jesus did:
- Notice those who may be looking for an invitation to a relationship with us. Those who might be curious to learn a skill or a way of life.
- Engage with them on their terms.
- We don't have to have all the answers. We don't have to force a conversation about religious conversation. We just show that we are interested in them as people.
- Invite them to "come and see."
- Then, we invite them into relationship, allowing them to "come and see" our lives.

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Week 2 Daily Prayer

God of Greater Things, help me to believe in your ability to show up in my life. Through Jesus, I believe that you meet us where we are: as humans seeking to live lives of wholeness. Guide me as I seek to meet you today and as I seek to allow others to meet you through me, too. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Starters

- Who noticed, engaged, and invited you into a life of faith? What do you remember about the way they were in relationship to you? What about that relationship helped you to trust them?
- Who in your life might be waiting for you to notice, engage, or invite them into a relationship?
- What part of this process (notice, engage, invite) is easiest for you? (notice, engage, invite)? What part is most difficult?

Bibliography / References / Further Reading

- O'Day, Gail R., "John," commentary in *The New Interpreter's Bible, Volume IX: Luke & John*; Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1995.

Contemporary Music Recommendations

- O Come to the Altar
- Today is the Day
- Come As You Are
- Redeemed

Traditional Music Recommendations

- UMH #257 - "We Meet You, O Christ"
- UMH #341 - "I Sought the Lord"
- UMH #454 - "Open My Eyes, That I May See"
- UMH #405 - "Seek Ye First"

Kids Connection Thought Starter

- Ask the kids if they have ever been invited anywhere? To a birthday party? To a sleepover? To church?
- It can be exciting to be invited!
- Did you know that prayer is also a kind of inviting?
- When we pray, it's like inviting God over to play. But instead of ringing a doorbell to get in, God waits for us to say, "Come on in, God!"
- Practice letting the children shout, "Come on in, God!"
- We can do this ANY time—when we're quiet in bed, when we're playing with friends, when we're doing our work at school. Any time is a good time to say, "Come on in, God!"

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Liturgical Resources

- Pastoral Prayer: [Inspired by John 1:29-42](#) via re: Worship
- Prayer: [Open our Eyes](#) by Susan Durber via re: Worship
- Closing Prayer: [Based on John 14:15-21](#) by Lutheran Julia via re: Worship