

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JOHN 1:35-51

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Introduction:

1. In one minute each, list the major milestones on your personal journey with Jesus (how you first heard of Him, enquired further, became a follower, grew as a Christian, etc.)

Read John 1:35-51 and discuss:

2. See vv.35-37. In what way was their interest in Jesus aroused? How does this help us appreciate how people are drawn to Jesus today? What part did the testimony of others play in you becoming a Christian? When did you last pass on the Good News about Jesus to someone else?
3. See vv.38-39. How does Jesus encourage enquirers to go deeper with Him? How can we help those who are curious about Jesus to investigate further? What "next steps" might we suggest to them? How might we help them practically to take those steps?
4. See vv.40-42. What do you think John wants us to learn from Andrew's example about how the gospel is spread? And from Philip (vv.43-45)? How experienced do you need to be as a disciple of Jesus before you begin to tell others about Him?
5. See v.46. What was Nathanael's objection, and how does Philip avoid getting bogged down in fruitless arguments? What do you think of Philip's reply? How might this help us if someone asks us a question that we cannot answer or that is likely to lead nowhere?
6. Those who truly follow Jesus experience not just a change of mind but deep life-change. How does Jesus express this to Peter (v.42)? And to Nathanael (vv.50-51)? Where in your own life has God been changing you over the years?
7. These brief conversion stories illustrate a pattern that is common in God's dealings with us. Faith is sparked by testimony; nurtured by personal investigation and experience; and confirmed by a lifetime of transformation. Where are you on this journey? What is the next step for you?

In Conclusion

- Remember that the aim of John's gospel is "that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (20:31). How has this passage helped you in this way? Pray in the light of this.

Eddie Larkman, January 2018