

John the Baptist already had a following of disciples, although we don't hear much about them. Here, however, we are introduced to two of them – who immediately decide to leave him in favour of following Jesus.

According to the text, Jesus seemed less than welcoming; 'What do you want?' He asked. Undeterred, they spent some time with Jesus before one, Andrew, went to share his excitement with his brother, Simon Peter.

There is a strange role change at this point because, seemingly, Jesus followed Andrew to meet Simon Peter 'Cephas'. Being honest, my favourite part is the following day where Philip tells Nathanael that they have 'found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth' and the reply; 'Can anything good come from Nazareth?' We do well to note that prejudice, then is still alive today.

Have you ever given something up in order to achieve a further goal?

Read John 1:35-51

1. What do you think John may have felt and thought about two of his followers abandoning him to follow Jesus? What does it say about 'commitment' to us today?
2. Why do you believe the two disciples asked Jesus where He was staying? If you were one of those two, what would you have asked instead? Why?
3. What do/can we learn of Jesus' character from the time they spent together on that first day?
4. Look at verse 41. Why was Andrew so convinced that Jesus was the 'Messiah'? (Bear in mind they had only spent a short time together and also about your own journey to faith.)
5. Verse 42 can be interpreted in different ways. Was Jesus' naming of 'Simon son of John' learned from His conversation with Andrew or from a more supernatural origin? Discuss.
6. When people get married the wife, usually, takes her husband's surname. Here Jesus renames, or at least, alters the name of Simon Peter to Peter/Cephas. What is the significance of this?
7. Verse 43 has the calling of Philip. It does seem a bit abrupt or was Philip the other, previously un-named, former disciple of John? Why, or why not?
8. Bethsaida (see Matt 11:21, Mk 6:45, 8:22, Lk 9:10, 10:13, e.g.) is thought to have been close to a hot spring on the Northern coast of The Sea of Galilee, near Capernaum. John's Gospel places Bethsaida in a different location to the others. Why, and is it important? (Clue: Think dates and Authors)
9. Verse 51 is sometimes translated as 'Do you believe because . . .' Why do you believe?
10. With whom would you most like to share your faith? Why?

Prayer Points

Please pray for Liz, (Elder for Evangelism) and Joanna, (Pastoral Co-Ordinator) who will be joining the team and staff at the church. Pray as they transition, for their protection and blessings as they serve the church.

Praise God for opening a door for BMS to work in Mongolia. Pray that the training of disciple makers will lead to the planting of new churches and new disciples. Pray also for the distribution of 1,000 Bibles, which will enable new disciples to read God's story in their heart language.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

May 18th 2025

What are you signing up to?

John 1:35-51

John 1–7 presents key themes that reveal Jesus' identity and mission. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, bringing light and life to a dark world. He calls people to believe in Him for eternal life, but many reject Him despite His miracles and teachings. A central theme is new birth—spiritual transformation through the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers living water and calls Himself the Bread of Life, showing He alone satisfies the soul. These chapters also highlight growing conflict and division, as people respond to Him with belief, confusion, or hostility. Through signs and deep conversations, Jesus reveals His divine nature and the offer of salvation to all, regardless of background or status.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001