



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Three

We are taking our time walking through the Gospel of John. This week we looked at the call of the original disciples. We learned seven marks of discipleship.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Jesus,
I want to be counted among your followers.
Let the evidence of that pile up in my life.
May I lay down old things and pick up my cross.
May I live into the new identity you are calling out in me.
There are even greater things yet to come.
Amen*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 1.35-39

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

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

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

- These first two disciples of Jesus had been disciples of John the Baptist. They followed without an invitation. They were compelled to follow Jesus after John revealed Jesus' identity. That's all it took! Jesus saw their desire to be near him and gave an invitation. Come, and you will see. Have you ever made a split second decision that changed your life? What holds you back from following after Jesus?
- *Jesus, thank you for passing by so that I could see you. I long to follow you today.*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 10.38-39

Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

- A disciple has to be willing to abandon anything other than Jesus. Sometimes it requires walking away from what you thought was the most important thing. A disciple may be asked to lay down his or her pursuit of a possession or a position. Notice that abandonment of other things does not equate to a loss of life, rather it leads to a life that is found in Jesus.
- *Jesus, you have shown me what it looks like to lay down one's life for another. Help me to abandon unnecessary things so that my life may be full in you.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 1.41-42

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

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

- You can see how quickly the movement of Jesus multiplies. Andrew has to tell his brother about Jesus. Upon meeting Andrew's brother Simon, Jesus changes his name to Peter (meaning *rock*). If you know Peter's story, you know that he didn't really live into this new name until his sermon at Pentecost—after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into heaven. Jesus didn't seem to do this with each of his followers, so was it something in Peter's past that needed undoing? Or was it that Jesus saw Peter's future importance for the birth of the church and was calling him to that identity? The answer to both questions is yes! Have you experienced a renaming moment? Who is God calling you to be?
- *God, you have the power to transform my life. Let me hear Jesus call me by a new name today.*

THURSDAY: MARK 2.3-5

Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

- A disciple carries others to Jesus. A disciple believes that Jesus can heal. A disciple will climb and dig so that others can see Jesus. The result is that sins are forgiven and true healing can take place. Who in your life needs healing and forgiveness like the paralyzed man?
- *God I pray now for the people in my life who are in need of Jesus. Give me courage to pick up a mat and bring them into Jesus' presence.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 1.47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ *"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."*

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”

⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

- Nathanael was amazed that Jesus spotted him. And not just that he spotted him, but that he saw him. Jesus knew his character from a distance. To be known by Jesus could feel threatening (“you don’t know me”) or comforting (“I don’t have to pretend with you”). Nathanael was moved to declare Jesus to be the Son of God. Jesus tells him that being known is just the start. There are greater things to come. Do you ever find yourself doubting Jesus’ promise for greater things?
- *Jesus, your promises are true. Call me out from whatever fig tree I am sitting under today and fill me with hope for the greater things you are working.*

SATURDAY: ISAIAH 65.15

You will leave your name

for my chosen ones to use in their curses;

the Sovereign Lord will put you to death,

but to his servants he will give another name.

- God will give his servants a new name. We may not actually change our earthly name when we follow Jesus but our identity must change. Jesus will not leave us the way we were before we encountered him.
- *Jesus, I don’t understand how all of this works. I don’t even know what it means to ask for a new name. Please speak to me today and reveal who I am as your disciple.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- These are the seven marks of a disciple laid out in this week's message:
 - The abandonment of other things
 - The desire to see and spend time with Jesus
 - They bring others to Jesus
 - The acceptance of new names
 - Frequent questions
 - The knowledge that you are well known by Jesus
 - The belief that greater things are coming
- How many of these marks are present in your life?
- Which one or two marks would you like to grow in?