

## Session 2: John 1:35–51

### **SESSION GOALS**

Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and committing to do.

#### **Main Idea**

In Jesus, we are saved to eternity with God. But God also has a plan for us today: to be his disciples and live as witnesses to him in our community.

#### **Head Change**

To know that Jesus has called us to follow him in every area of our lives.

#### **Heart Change**

To feel committed to following Jesus and telling others about him.

#### **Life Change**

To boldly follow Jesus and proclaim his glory to those around us.

### **OPEN**

**Who are your favorite celebrities? What draws you to them?**

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he means us to do much more than appreciate him from a distance. In this session, Dr. Tony Evans shows us what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It's an exciting future getting to know God and leading others to know him.

### **READ**

John 1:35–51

## **WATCH**

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Dr. Tony Evans's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

**When the people in this passage meet Jesus, how do they react to him?**

**What do people do after they meet Jesus?**

**How does Dr. Evans connect our future in heaven to our daily lives?**

Show Session 2: *John 1:35–51* (10 minutes).

## **DISCUSS**

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Read John 1:35–39.

We learned in the last session John the Baptist came as a witness to Jesus. Here, in verses 35–36, John fulfills his ministry. **What title does John give to Jesus? According to Dr. Evans, what does this title mean?**

**Note:** For further study and more information on the Lamb of God, see **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of this study.

John the Baptist's goal was to attach people to Jesus, not to himself. When two of his disciples (Andrew and, most likely, John the Apostle) leave him to follow Jesus, they aren't disrespecting John, they are doing exactly what he taught. We, like John, are called to lead people to Jesus, not to build our own fanbase. **What are some practical ways that you can use your platform to build Jesus's following?**

When Jesus notices the two disciples following him, he turns to ask them a very important question in verse 38: What do you want from me? These two could have wanted a myriad of things, but all they wanted was to follow Jesus. **What do you want from Jesus? What is he offering you?**

Read John 1:40–42.

When we enjoy something, be it a great restaurant or good movie, we rush to tell our friends and family about it. More than that, we want them to experience the goodness we have found. We want them to see it, taste it, and experience with us. **What does Andrew do after meeting Jesus? How does Andrew share the goodness he found in Jesus?**

**Note:** For further study and more information on the Messiah/Christ, see **Go Deeper Section 2** at the end of this study.

Dr. Evans shared, "When you come to Jesus, you get more than an exciting offer from the Lamb, you get an exciting future of serving him." Jesus knew Simon's history and gave him purpose for his future. Jesus knows your history, and that won't stop him from using you in big

ways. **In what specific ways have you felt limited by your past?**

Dr. Evans said, “Many Christians want to go to heaven but want Jesus to leave them alone on earth.” It’s easy to follow Jesus to church on Sunday, but God wants you to make an impact for his kingdom every day. **What are some ways you can follow Jesus every day?**

Read John 1:43–51.

When Jesus meets Philip, he gives him a simple command: follow me. He gives no promises about what tomorrow will hold, no assurance about an easy path, no conditions. Following Jesus is not circumstantial; it’s a decision to walk with the Messiah through all of your circumstances. **When is it difficult for you to follow Jesus? What can you do to trust Jesus more in those areas of your life?**

**How do the disciples introduce people to Jesus in verses 40–42, 45–46? In what ways can you emulate Andrew and Philip when you introduce people to Jesus?**

We can’t physically introduce people to Jesus, but can we can introduce them to Jesus through the Bible, the way we live, and prayer. **What have you learned about Jesus in John chapter 1? What are some ways you can use what you have learned to share Jesus with the people around you?**

**Note:** For further study and more information on Jesus’s omniscience, see **Go Deeper Section 3** at the end of this study.

Jesus promises to show Nathanael more of who he is simply because Nathanael believed in his words. Dr. Evans noted, “God will only show you more of himself when he sees you take him at his word.” **What are some ways that you can trust God more in every area of your life?**

**If you are following Jesus, what are some ways has God shown you more of himself this year?**

**Note:** For further study and more information on Jacob’s vision of heaven, see **Go Deeper Section 4** at the end of this study.

Dr. Evans called out a common problem in today's church. Some Christians live like "spiritual secret agents," claiming to be Christians but not showing any evidence of faith in their life. **In what situations are you hesitant to talk about Jesus? What can you do to live more boldly for him?**

Four men meet Jesus in this passage and all four follow a similar pattern: 1) they are told about Jesus; 2) they meet Jesus for themselves; 3) they decide to follow Jesus; and 4) they run to tell other people about Jesus. **Where are you in this process? If you have chosen to follow Jesus, how can you continue to grow as a disciple and witness for Jesus?**

## **LAST WORD**

John 1 introduces us to Jesus and teaches us how to rightly respond to him. He is the Lamb of God, the Christ, the one of whom the prophets wrote, the Son of God, and the king of Israel. And he came so that you might follow him and be changed forever.

When you trust in Jesus, you are saved for eternity and redeemed to make an impact for him in history. Life is not a holding pattern for heaven. Rather, it is an opportunity to build the kingdom of God.

If you have met Jesus, it is now your turn to encourage others to "come and see" the Messiah.

## **GO DEEPER**

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group discussion by providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a place where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide.

But you can also use these sections as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting.

### **1. Lamb of God**

When John calls Jesus the Lamb of God, he is proclaiming Jesus to be the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law and the atonement for our sins. It is a title rich in meaning that is often lost on modern ears. Let's investigate what it means for Jesus to be the Lamb of God.

Read Leviticus 4:35. **What is the role of the lamb in atoning for sins?**

Read Hebrews 10:1–4; 10. **What were the limitations of the Old Testament sacrifices? In what way is Jesus a greater sacrifice?**

Read Romans 8:1–4. **What has Jesus's death accomplished?**

Jesus's death was the perfect sacrifice, atoning for our sins once and for all. He is the Lamb of God. Whenever you feel ashamed, like you are not good enough for God, remember the work of the Lamb. Jesus paid it all so that you could receive the free gift of salvation.

**In the coming days, what can you do to trust more in the work of the Lamb?**

### **2. The Christ**

It is not unusual for people to think "Christ" is just a part of Jesus's name. In truth, it is a title derived from the Greek word *christos*, meaning "the chosen one." In Hebrew, he would have been called *Meshiach*, which we translate "Messiah." But who was the Messiah? What was his purpose?

Read Isaiah 9:6; 53; 61:1–3.

**What did you learn about the Messiah from these passages? What was his purpose? What did he accomplish?**

When Andrew called Jesus the Messiah, he was looking forward to the prophesied works of Jesus. We have the benefit of both seeing his completed work and receiving the fruits of his labor.

Read Romans 8.

**According to Romans 8, what blessings have you received through Jesus?**

Today, praise God in prayer. Set aside time to worship him for who he is and what he has done in your life.

### **3. Omniscience**

God is omniscient, which means he knows everything. We see that omniscience on display when Jesus meets Nathanael. The things Jesus knows are so astonishing to Nathanael that he breaks out in praise. We should react in the same way.

God knows everything about you. Even your worst flaws and sins don't keep him from loving you.

Read Romans 5:6–11.

**Who were you to God before Christ?**

**How did the work of Jesus change you?**

**What is the response we should have to Jesus?**

Jesus has not called you on a trial basis. He knows all about you and went to the cross so that you might be with him. There is comfort in being fully known and fully loved.

Take some time in prayer today praising God. Thank him for his love and the gift of his Son.

### **4. Jacob's Ladder**

Jesus told Nathanael that he was the connection between heaven and earth. He explains this using imagery from a well-known vision in Genesis 28, commonly known as Jacob's Ladder.

Read Genesis 28:10–19. **How does Jacob react to his vision? What does he call the place where he had his vision?**

Jacob's vision made him feel as though he was in God's house. The vision revealed the presence and nearness of God to Jacob.

When Jesus claims to be Jacob's ladder, he is claiming to be the living presence of God. He is telling Nathanael, and us, that when you are near to Jesus, you are near to God. After all, Jesus is called "Emmanuel"—God with us.

If you believe in Jesus, he is your connection to heaven. As you walk in faith, Jesus will show you more of himself and of his Father in heaven. At the end of your life, Jesus is your means to go to heaven. He is eager to reveal himself to us; we need only to follow him in faith.

**What are some ways you can walk in faith and learn from Jesus today? Tomorrow? The rest of your life?**