

BOOK OF JOHN

Week 3

Jesus - The stairway to heaven

Intro/setting up the series:

Now more than ever, there are so many different opinions on who Jesus is. Some say he was a good teacher but misunderstood by many. Some say he never even existed, that He is a created character. Others claim that he was a liar. And others claim that Jesus is the Son of God. The Savior of the World. And with all those opinions coming at us, it can be hard for us to figure out where we stand on the issue.

So for the next year we are going to look to answer that those questions...

WHO IS JESUS? WHAT DID HE SAY? WHAT DID HE DO? AND WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH HIM?

ILLUSTRATION:

Talk about being stuck in the middle of nowhere or visiting a town or city that was super boring or lame and there was absolutely nothing to do. *(Like nothing good could come from this city, just like Nathanael thought that nothing good could come from Nazareth.)*

SCRIPTURE:

JOHN 1:43-51 (PAGE 121)

“43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” 44 Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown. 45 Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses^[a] and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” 46 “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.47 As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” 48 “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” 49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!” 50 Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” 51 Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.^[b]”

MAIN POINT: TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

-As soon as Phillip decided to follow Jesus, he immediately went to find Nathanael so he could meet Jesus as well and become a follower of Jesus.

-Phillip changed Nathanaels life simply by introducing him to Jesus.

-Nathanael didn't just believe when his friend told him about Jesus, he started to believe when he experienced Jesus for himself.

Key: It only takes one encounter with Jesus to change someones life forever.

- Just like Nathanaels life was changed when he encountered Jesus, others lives will be changed when they experience Jesus for themselves.

Truth #1: JESUS SEES YOU

- John 1:48-49

“Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” **48** “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” **49** Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

-Jesus had been watching Nathanael for some time and He saw him sitting under the fig tree. Jesus knew that Nathanael was a genuine man and a man of integrity. *This is because Jesus saw Nathanael.*

-Once Nathanael realized that Jesus knew about him that is when he realized that Jesus truly was the son of God.

-Just like Jesus saw Nathanael, Jesus sees you. He sees you in your highs and your lows. He sees you when you're doing the right thing and when you're doing the wrong thing. But Jesus always sees the best in you.

-Im sure Nathanael had done some things that were wrong but Jesus knew he was a genuine man. This is because even though we all mess up and make mistakes, Jesus still sees what is best inside of us. He loves us despite our flaws and our mistakes.

Truth #2: JESUS IS THE STAIRWAY BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.

ILLUSTRATION:

-Talk about a stairway in your house or your house growing up or even about a stair stepper at the gym. *(talk about how a stairway connects one part of your house to the other just like Jesus is our connection between heaven and earth.)*

-When we follow Jesus we get to experience His glory and His power.

-Jesus is not only our stairway to heaven, He is our only way to heaven.

- John 3:16

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

-The Bible says that everyone who believes in Jesus, will have eternal life.

-This is why Jesus is our only way to heaven. He is the stairway between heaven and earth.

Response & Altar

- Salvation and rededication.
- **Have students respond by putting out sheets of paper for them to write names of friends that don't know Jesus and have them pray over those friends then challenge them to tell those friends who Jesus is and invite them to Church.**