



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come.

Joining John on the Journey with Jesus

Background Matters

Jesus' first disciples (1:35–42).

The next day refers to the third day in this series (cf. vv. 29, 35, 43; 2:1). The most likely reason for this chronological notation is that the author had a particular interest in narrating how some disciples came from their positions as adherents in John's party to faith in **Jesus**. The verb tenses in 1:35–36 are unusual. **John was there** (lit., “stood,” perf. tense) while Jesus was **passing by** (pres. tense). The action in God's economy was shifting from John's baptism to the ministry of Jesus. John pointed his **disciples** to Jesus as God's **Lamb**.

Two of John's **disciples heard** the witness of the Baptist and **followed Jesus**. The word “followed” probably has a double meaning here. They followed Him in the sense of literal walking and also as His disciples, that is, they turned their allegiance to Jesus that day.



1:38. The first words the disciples heard from **Jesus** were, **What do you want?** In one sense Jesus was asking a simple question and the disciples responded with a request for information as to **where** He lived. But the author seemed to imply more. Perhaps Jesus was also asking, “What are you seeking in life?” The word translated **staying** (*menō*) is a favorite word of John’s. This Greek word occurs here in his writings for the first time. Of the 112 New Testament passages in which it occurs, 66 are in his writings—40 in the Gospel of John, 23 in 1 John, and 3 in 2 John (William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957, pp. 504–5).

Sometimes, as here, it means “to stay or dwell” in a place; a few times it means “to last or continue”; but more often it has a theological connotation: “to remain, continue, abide” (e.g., John 15:4–7).

1:39. **Jesus' words of invitation were, Come ... and you will see. A person must first come to Him; then he will see.** In addition to their seeing where He stayed, these words may possibly also have a deeper theological implication. The two disciples remained with Him **that day**, beginning at **the 10th hour**. That hour was 4 P.M. or 10 A.M., depending on whether the Fourth Gospel counted days from 6 A.M. (as the Synoptics customarily did) or from midnight or noon. The 10 A.M. times seems better and was the official Roman usage.

1:40–41. ***Andrew, one of the two disciples who followed Jesus, was the first proclaimer of Jesus as the Messiah. In Hebrew, “Messiah” means “the anointed One,” which in Greek is translated Christ (ho Christos).*** The idea of “the anointed One” comes from the Old Testament practice of anointing priests and kings with oil. This was symbolic of the Spirit and pointed to the future One who would come (cf. Isa. 61:1). The title “Messiah” came to be used of the future Davidic King (cf. Matt. 1:1; John 6:15). In bringing **his brother Simon** Peter to Christ, no man did the church a greater service than Andrew. Andrew appeared two more times in John (6:4–9; 12:20–22); both times he was bringing someone to Jesus. The unnamed disciple is commonly held to be John the son of Zebedee, a brother of James and author of this Gospel. In Mark 1:16–20 two pairs of brothers (Simon and Andrew, James and John) who were fishermen were called by Jesus.

1:42. When **Jesus** ... **looked at** Simon (cf. v. 47), He knew the man’s character and destiny. Jesus gave him the Aramaic name **Cephas**. **Peter** is the Greek translation of Cephas (“rock”). Simon’s name in Hebrew was probably Simeon (Gr. in Acts 15:14; 2 Peter 1:1; cf. NIV marg.). No reason is given here for the change of his name from Simon to Cephas. The common understanding is that his name indicates what God by His grace would do through him. He would be a rock-like man in the church during its early years (cf. Matt. 16:18; Luke 22:31–32; John 21:15–19; Acts 2–5; 10–12¹

¹ Edwin A. Blum, **“John,”** in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 275–276.



This Week in Walking With the Savior, we examine the calling of Jesus' first disciples, who were initially followers of John the Baptist. This moment highlights the profound influence of the Spirit in guiding individuals to Christ. The very first question Jesus posed to the disciples was, "What do you want?" While this question may seem straightforward, it holds deeper significance. The disciples replied by inquiring about Jesus' place of residence. On a more profound level, Jesus was extending an invitation for them to follow Him, both in a literal sense and in a spiritual journey. This text invites us to reflect on the transformative experience of **walking with the Savior**.

STUDY GUIDE 4 This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your **growth in the Word**. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

A Call to Follow the Savior

John 1:35–42

OPEN IT, MONDAYS. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *How would you feel if a good friend abandoned your friendship in favor of someone else?

EXPLORE IT, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. Who besides Jesus had disciples? (1:35)

3. What did John say when he saw Jesus? (1:36)

4. How did John identify Jesus for his disciples? (1:37)



5. *What did John's disciples do when John identified Jesus? (1:37)

6. What did Jesus ask John's disciples? (1:38)

7. What did John's disciples call Jesus? (1:38)

8. What did John's disciples ask Jesus? (1:38)

PUSH ON WEDNESDAY, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. *What was the first thing Andrew did after he had followed Jesus? (1:40)

10. Who was Andrew's brother? (1:40)

11. *What did Andrew tell his brother about Jesus? (1:41)

12. What nickname did Jesus give to Simon? (1:42)

13. What words did the author interpret for us? (1:37, 41, 42)

14. *What does it mean to follow Jesus?



15. What hinders us from following Jesus?

GET IT THURSDAYS, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

16. *What must we leave to follow Jesus?

17. To what friends and relatives could you introduce Jesus?

18. How can we spend time with Jesus to get to know Him better?

19. Whom do you want to introduce to Jesus this week?

DRIVE IT HOME, FRIDAYS, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

20. How could you introduce Christ to a friend or relative?

21. *What change in your daily routine would enable you to follow Jesus better?

22.*As John the Baptist was the initial one to direct his followers to the Savior, what person or circumstances caused you to begin looking to the Savior?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John 2026

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