



# *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*

Though the first disciples were from Galilee, **Jesus** had called them in Judea where they were with the Baptist. On His way north to **Galilee**, **He** called **Philip** to be His disciple. Philip's hometown of **Bethsaida** was on the northeast side of the Sea of Galilee (called "Bethsaida in Galilee" in 12:21). Also **Andrew and Peter** were born there. Politically, Bethsaida was in lower Gaulonitis in the territory of Herod Philip (Josephus *The Antiquities of the Jews* 18. 2. 1). Philip's name is Greek but his nationality cannot be inferred from that fact.

1:45. Philip's testimony to **Nathanael** stressed that Jesus is **the Promised One** of whom **Moses** (Deut. 18:18–19; cf. John 1:21, 25) and **the prophets** (Isa. 52:13–53:12; Dan. 7:13; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9) **wrote**. Surprisingly Philip called **Jesus ... the son of Joseph**. But this is what the disciples would have believed at this time. Yet Nathanael would soon recognize that He is "the Son of God" (John 1:49).



**Nathanael** momentarily stumbled over the lowly origin of the Messiah. **Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?** Nathanael knew of the poor reputation of Nazareth. Surely the Messiah would come from Jerusalem, Hebron, or some other prominent city. Jesus' condescension still remains a puzzle to many people. How can the *Logos* be a Man? **Philip** was wise enough not to argue, he gently invited his friend to meet Jesus: **Come and see**. He knew that Nathanael's questions would then be resolved.

1:47. **Jesus**, having supernatural knowledge (cf. v. 42), called **Nathanael ... a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false** (*dolos*, "deceitful") unlike Jacob (cf. v. 51 with Gen. 28:12).

1:48. **Nathanael** was puzzled as to **how** Jesus knew about him. **Jesus** said He knew exactly what Nathanael was doing **before Philip** came up to him; he was **under the fig tree**. This expression often meant to have safety and leisure (cf. 1 Kings 4:25; Micah 4:4; Zech. 3:10). Perhaps here the fig tree was a place for meditation (cf. comments on John 1:50–51). Psalm 139 elaborates on the theme of God's knowledge of a person's life in every detail.

1:49. Jesus' supernatural knowledge moved **Nathanael** to confess Him as **the Son of God and the King of Israel**. This does not mean that Nathanael at this early date fully understood the Trinity or the Incarnation. Rather He understood Jesus to be the Son of God in the messianic sense (cf. Ps. 2:6–7). This future Davidic King would have God's Spirit on Him (Isa. 11:1–2) and thus would have supernatural knowledge.

1:50–51. **Jesus** promised Nathanael a **greater** basis for belief, probably referring to the miracles in chapters 2–13. From 1:48, 51 it can be inferred that Nathanael was meditating on Jacob's life, particularly on the incident recorded in Genesis 28:12. Jacob saw the angels going up and down a ladder. But Nathanael would **see ... the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man**. Just as Jacob saw angels from heaven communicating with earth, so Nathanael (and the others; though **you** is sing. in John 1:50, the **you** in v. 51 is pl.) would see Jesus as the divine Communication from heaven to earth. The Son of Man, replacing the ladder, is God's link with earth (cf. Dan. 7:13; Matt. 26:64). Perhaps Jesus was also indicating that He is the new "Bethel," God's dwelling place (Gen. 28:17; John 1:14).

As the Son of Man, Jesus left heaven to come to the earth. Jesus used the term "Son of Man" of Himself more than 80 times. It speaks of His humanity and suffering and His work as "the ideal Man."

***This week in "Walking With the Savior,"*** *Jesus consistently invites His disciples to follow Him. While traveling, He likely met many people before personally selecting His followers. He didn't call everyone He encountered; instead, He chose those whom He believed would play a crucial role in His plan to make a significant impact on the world.*



*For example, Nathanael was amazed by Jesus' knowledge of him. Jesus revealed that He knew what Nathanael was doing even before Philip approached him—specifically, that he was sitting under the fig tree. This demonstration of supernatural knowledge prompted Nathanael to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel.*

*It is important to understand that Nathanael did not fully grasp the complexities of the Trinity or the Incarnation at this early stage. He recognized Jesus as the Son of God in a messianic sense—as a future Davidic King who would possess God's Spirit and, as a result, have extraordinary insight. However, by answering the call, Nathanael opened the door for supernatural power to transform his life as he walked with the Savior.*

## HAVE YOU ANSWERED THE CALL?

(Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael)

**John 1:43–51**

Topics:

Angels, Believe, Follow, God, Goodness, Heaven, Jesus Christ, Name, Surprises



### **STUDY GUIDE 5**

*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.*

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

1. How do people feel when they find something that's been missing for a for long time?

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

2. How did Jesus and Philip meet? (1:43)

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3. What did Jesus say to Philip? (1:43)

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4. \*How did Philip respond to Jesus' invitation? (1:44–46)

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5. What did Philip do after he followed Jesus? (1:45)

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6. What did Philip tell Nathanael about Jesus? (1:45)

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7. \*Why was Nathanael skeptical that Philip had found the Messiah? (1:46)

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8. What did Jesus say when he saw Nathanael? (1:47)

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9. \*What convinced Nathanael that Jesus was the Son of God? (1:47–50)

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

10. What was Nathanael's response to Jesus' greeting? (1:48)

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11. Why was Nathanael surprised? (1:48)

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12. Why did Nathanael call Jesus the Son of God and the King of Israel? (1:48–49)

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13. What were the greater things to which Jesus referred? (1:50)

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14. What did Jesus tell Nathanael he would see? (1:51)

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15. Who is the Son of Man? (1:51)

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16. What about Christ stirs skepticism today?

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

17. \*What stereotypes about Christ prevent people from trusting Him today?

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18. What convinced you that Jesus was the Son of God?

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19. \*What makes Jesus qualified to rule our lives?

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20. How is Jesus the King of your life?

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21. What do you have in common with Jesus?

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22. How can Jesus' identity as the Son of God inspire your confidence in Him?

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

23. How will you show your trust in the God who knows all about you this week?

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24. \*How would you share your faith with a skeptical person this week?

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25. In what way will you recognize Jesus as the ruler of your life today?

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*A Journey Through The Gospel of John* **2026**

Download your study guide at: [Unlockingthetruth.us](https://Unlockingthetruth.us)