

FAITH AT HOME: September 19, 2021

This resource is intended to be used in your household: around the dinner table, at bedtime, or any other time you can gather together to share and reflect.



I've been meaning to ask...where are you from?

The story of Jesus calling the disciples provides a helpful charge: to 'come and see' what the journey holds. Jesus invites the disciples to a deeper level of curiosity, one that entails a willingness to learn as well as unlearn prior assumptions.

SHARE

Share highs and lows from the week or use one of the questions below to spark conversation with your household.

READ: John 1:35-51

Read the passage aloud or silently and share a word or phrase that sticks out to you.

If you have little ones in your household, you may consider reading only through verse 39 and focusing on the invitation to "come and see".

John 1:35-51 (NRSV)

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus

answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

TALK

This time is for reflecting on the Scripture and theme in light of our own experiences. Use the following questions/activities as a starting point.

1. Questions that connect to Scripture:
 - a. When Nathanael first hears about Jesus, he asks, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46) When have you, like Nathanael, made a harmful assumption about a person or place?
 - b. Despite Nathanael's initial judgments, Jesus sees only goodness in him. Consider a time when you have felt known and honored for your unique identity.
 - c. "Come and see" becomes a refrain in this passage. In your own life, how are you cultivating deeper curiosity that grants a fuller understanding of others?
2. Questions that connect to the theme ("Where are you from?")
 - a. What's your favorite family tradition? Or, what's a tradition you want to start and pass along to those you love?
 - b. Share a memory related to food – a family recipe, a baking ritual, or a time of breaking bread with loved ones.
 - c. Share a memory from your childhood.
 - d. Share anything you know about your ancestry or ethnicity. What stories have been passed down to you? What stories or information are missing? In what ways does your story of origin hold pain, and in what ways does it hold promise?
 - e. How many places have you lived or visited? What place(s) have you loved? What place feels most like home?
3. Draw (or color or paint) a self-portrait. Include symbols or words that describe what you love about yourself! Create a representation of your family using paper and pen, legos, playdough, etc.) Include special traditions, hobbies, or activities that you have in common. Share and talk about your creations with others in your household.

PRAY

Dear God, we are all from different places and from the same place. Thank you for making us each different and special. Help us to see each person as part of the human family. Amen.

BLESS

Mark the cross of Christ on the hand or forehead of one another and say the words: "Name, God made you and God loves you!" Make sure everyone in the household is included – both giving and receiving this blessing!