

## Week 3: Seen Known (John 1:43-51)

**Main Idea:** Jesus knows and sees us, even when we doubt.

**Capture:**

**Story/Question:**

“Have you ever had someone believe in you, even when you weren’t sure about yourself? Maybe a coach, a teacher, or a friend who saw something in you when you didn’t see it yourself? Well, that’s what happens in our story today with two disciples—Philip and Nathanael. Let’s see how Jesus handled doubt.”

**Scripture:**

**John 1:43-51 (NIV)**

*43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.*

Philip didn’t waste any time—when Jesus said, “Follow me,” he went. No hesitation, just like the others. There was something about Jesus that made Philip drop everything.

**What this means:** Sometimes, following Jesus is an immediate response to a clear call. Like Philip, we may not know everything at first, but we know enough to take that first step.

*45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ 46 ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. ‘Come and see,’ said Philip.*

Philip was so excited about Jesus that he had to go tell his friend Nathanael. But Nathanael wasn’t convinced. In fact, he was skeptical—Nazareth wasn’t exactly the place people expected the Messiah to come from.

**What this means:** Sometimes we have doubts about what we hear about Jesus. Maybe it’s hard to believe that He can change things or that He’s the answer we’re looking for. But like Philip said, the best way to deal with doubts is to “come and see” for yourself.

*47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’*

Jesus already knew Nathanael’s heart, even before they had a conversation. He saw Nathanael’s honesty and sincerity, even though he had doubts.

**What this means:** Jesus sees us completely. He knows what’s in our hearts—our doubts, our questions, and even our sincerity. And He still invites us to follow Him.

*48 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.'*

Nathanael was blown away by Jesus' response. Somehow, Jesus knew him, even though they had never met. It's like Jesus was saying, "I've known you all along, even before you knew me."

**What this means:** Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. He sees everything about us—our doubts, our hopes, our fears—and yet He calls us to follow Him. He's not distant; He's close and involved in every detail of our lives.

*49 Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.' 50 Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.' 51 He then added, 'Very truly I tell you, you will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on" the Son of Man.'*

Nathanael's doubt turned into belief when he realized Jesus truly knew him. And Jesus promised him that this was just the beginning—there was so much more to come.

**What this means:** Following Jesus is a journey of discovering more and more about who He is and what He's doing in the world. When we bring our doubts to Him, He doesn't push us away. Instead, He shows us that He's real, and He promises that we will see even greater things.

**Think About It:**

### **Jesus knows us completely**

Just like Nathanael, Jesus sees and knows every part of our lives—our doubts, our struggles, and our sincere questions. And He still invites us to follow Him, showing us that He's not afraid of our doubts.

### **Jesus meets us in our doubts**

Nathanael was skeptical, but Jesus didn't get mad or push him away. Instead, He invited Nathanael to see for himself. Jesus meets us in our doubts and shows us that He's the real deal.

### **Jesus promises greater things**

Jesus told Nathanael that what he had just experienced was only the beginning. Following Jesus leads to greater and greater things as we walk with Him. When we choose to follow, we're invited into a life filled with His presence and purpose.

**Main Idea:** Jesus knows and sees us, even when we doubt.

Maybe you believe you must have it all figured out before taking a step of faith. Maybe you think God wants you to know or do more so he can use you. God doesn't wait for us to have it all figured out. He calls us to act now and be honest with him.

## **Apply It To Your Life:**

### **Bring your doubts to Jesus**

If you have doubts or questions about Jesus, don't hide them. This week, take time to bring those doubts to Him in prayer and be honest about what you're feeling. You might even journal about it or talk to a leader who can help you work through your questions.

### **Invite someone to 'come and see'**

Like Philip, who invited Nathanael, is there someone in your life who's skeptical about Jesus or doesn't know Him? This week, invite them to church, youth group, or a Bible study. It doesn't have to be a big thing—just ask them to “come and see.”

### **Trust that Jesus sees you**

Sometimes we feel overlooked or forgotten, but Jesus sees everything about you. This week, take comfort in knowing that He knows your heart and loves you deeply. Reflect on that truth, and let it remind you of your value to Him.

Let's Pray!