**2021 Bible Studies: Week 3: John 1:43-51**

**A Session Outline - 40 mins total, but can be longer or flexible if you wish**

**Introduction - 10 mins (longer if you’re in a group I suspect!)**

1. How are you?
2. What notable things have happened recently?
3. Is there anything distracting you from focusing on God today? If yes, think or talk about that and then pray and give it to God as you begin.

**Time With the Bible - 15-20 mins**

*What does this passage tell me about God?* To answer this question, you might want to think about whether the passage speaks about God directly or indirectly. Is there a prophecy quoted, or does the passage remind you of another part of scripture? If so, spend some time following the leads. How does the passage remind you of what you’ve known about God before? Does it make you think differently about God than you have done before?

*What does this passage tell me about myself?* To answer this question you might want to ask how you felt as you read the passage and how you feel as you reflect on it now. Do you identify with a particular character? Does it make you feel happy or sad, hopeful, excited, confused or any other emotions?

If you feel challenged, or as if something in the passage is really speaking to your or feels personal to you today, spend a few minutes thinking: what is it? What about it feels important to you?

*What is this passage inviting me to do differently?*

As Christians we are meant to live according to the truth that is in Jesus and to not be the same as before we knew him (Ephesians 4:20-24). As we learn the good news of Jesus and the truth about his love we are bound to change.

Spend time thinking about things in your life you might want to be or to do differently as a result of today’s study and pray about those things.

For each session, we will also provide a few questions to pick out the key elements of the passage and try and help you to be guided through the study.

**Time in Prayer - 10 mins**

Each time you meet or spend time reflecting alone, make sure you leave plenty of time to pray. You could pray about:

The Church and its leaders, both ours, Churches nearby and the worldwide Church

Situations locally or in the world around us

Things shared by people during your time together

Those who are afraid, sick or those who are bereaved

Committing to God that you will follow through on what you’ve been invited to do by today’s study.

Your neighbours and the street you live in.

Those who govern us locally, nationally and internationally.

**Questions**

1. Imagine, if you will, that you find yourself in Philip’s position, you met Jesus and he said to you ‘follow me’. How do you think you would respond? What would make you follow and what would make you hold back?
2. Now do the same thing, but imagine you are Nathaniel. Do you resonate with his initial response?
3. What changes for Nathaniel in the interaction he has with Jesus which makes him follow, do you think?
4. What do you think is the equivalent in our day? Many people don’t respond when we explain to them who Jesus is, but many of us have stories, or hear stories of others who have been transformed through an encounter with Jesus. Do you think we invite people to ‘come and see, come and meet Jesus’ readily enough?
5. What might encourage you to invite someone to ‘come and see’? What might hold you back from doing so?

**Something To Do This Week**

Pray that you would encounter God this week. If you do, write, draw or create something in response to the experience so that you can remember it in future and, perhaps, tell others about it too.