

The Life Challenge

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Glorify His Name

Title: The Word and the Fig Tree

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WARM - UP

Do you have a favorite place to read scripture, meditate and pray? Where and Why? How has regular attendance in church worship services impacted your life of discipleship? Read John 1:1 - 18.

DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think John begins his gospel by establishing the deity of Christ? What phrases does he use to demonstrate the deity of Christ? (vs. 1 - 5)
2. Review the purpose statement of John's gospel - John 20:30 & 31. John is introduced in John's gospel as a witness to the light, to Jesus. How is being a witness an aid to helping people believe in Jesus? (vs. 6 - 8)
3. What is required to be a child of God? How would you define what it means to believe in Jesus? What is the significance of being a child of God? (vs. 9 - 13)
4. Vs. 14 is John's birth narrative. What does it mean to you that Jesus is full of grace and truth?

Read Nathaniel's story, vs. 43 - 51

DISCUSSION

5. In what way did Nathaniel experience the grace and truth of Jesus?
6. How did Jesus referring to him as a true Israelite help Nathaniel face his skepticism? Nathaniel was skeptical that Jesus, being from Nazareth, could be the promised Messiah. (consider Jacob the deceiver renamed Israel - Genesis 27 - 33). Jesus was inviting Nathaniel to consider the truth that he was the promised Messiah.
7. What is the significance of Nathaniel's confession? (vs. 49).

APPLICATION

8. Jesus called Philip to follow him and he immediately thinks of a friend who needs to introduce to Jesus. Who is a friend of yours that you need to introduce to Jesus (or have already introduced to Jesus)? Commit to pray for them and ask Jesus to meet them at their point of need or help them overcome their skepticism or unbelief.
9. Sitting under a fig tree came to be recognized as a place to pray and meditate. It was a place of hope, a place to express the desires of one's heart. Why do we need a 'fig tree'? Where is your 'fig tree'? In what ways is our weekly worship service a 'fig tree'?