

## JESUS & THE SKEPTICAL + JOHN 1:43-51

*Open up with prayer: asking that God's Spirit would lead and guide your study of this text, giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.*

### OPENER

- What are some things that cause you to doubt? What might cause you to doubt these things and how might you address and/or clear them?
- Read John 1:43-51

### STUDY/DISCUSS

1. How does Philipp respond to the testimony he hears about Jesus?
2. Nathanael, who comes from Cana (see John 21:2), can't believe that anything good would come out of the rival village, Nazareth (v46), a short distance up the hill. What kinds of prejudices prevent people from seeking Jesus today?
3. What do you think of Jesus' invitation to Nathanael? What does it mean to you that Jesus invites you to bring your questions, your wonderments, even your doubts to him?
4. What breaks Nathanael's skepticism?
5. The Apostle John later writes in his first letter that: "We love because he [God] first loved us." (1 John 4:19) What does it mean to you that God, in Christ, sees you first before you see him and he knows everything about you?
6. What does it mean that Jesus has made heaven and earth open to each other (v51)?
7. Are there any ordinary people—like Philip, Nathanael, Andrew and Peter—in your life that you might consider inviting to "come and see" Jesus so that they too might experience what it's like for heaven and earth to be opened to each other right before their eyes? If so, what kind of "come and see" invitation might you make?

### COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK

Consider some ways that you can be a witness for Jesus in your community—at work, in the neighborhood, at school, etc. Plan to take one specific action this week to demonstrate Jesus' love to others who don't yet know him.

### PRAY

*Thank Jesus for coming to explain God fully to us. Ask God also to make you bold to extend the invitation to others to encounter Jesus for themselves.*