

# *Living the Word*

## A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

### Session 2

John 1: 35-43

*“Come and see.”*



Diocese of  
**CROOKSTON**

[www.crookston.org](http://www.crookston.org)

Office of Formation in Discipleship

P.O. Box 610 | Crookston, Minnesota | 56716

T: (218) 281-4533 | F: (218) 281-5991

Copyright Diocese of Crookston, 2020

Living the Word  
Missionary Discipleship Bible Study  
Session 2

OPENING PRAYER

God of life and love, pour forth Your Spirit to inspire me with Your words of compassion, forgiveness and love. Stir in me a desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with Jesus, Your son. Open my heart to hear and live your Gospel message. Strengthen me to be a Missionary Disciple, a sharer of the Good News in words and witness proclaiming your all-inclusive love, mercy, and grace in all that I do. Amen

OPENING PSALM

(Create two groups and take turns reading together)

**Psalm 42**

**Longing for God and His Help in Distress**

**Group 1** <sup>1</sup> As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

**Group 2** <sup>4</sup> These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng,<sup>[a]</sup>  
and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

**Group 1** <sup>6</sup> My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.

**Group 2** <sup>8</sup> By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because the enemy oppresses me?”

<sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my body,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”

## OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_cXBD1LkrI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_cXBD1LkrI)

## THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

What are you looking for?  
Come and See!

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”  
-Saint Augustine of Hippo

## **John 1: 35-43**

### **The First Disciples of Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When 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?” <sup>39</sup> He 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. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed<sup>[a]</sup>). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon<sup>[b]</sup> to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

## REFLECTION

### **What are you looking for?**

How fitting that the first recorded words spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of John are “What are you looking for?” The same question that Jesus asked Andrew and his companion (likely the Gospel writer John), created an echo that has touched every searching heart for the past two-thousand years. It is perhaps life’s most central question, propelling us forward as we search for happiness, purpose, meaning, fulfillment, peace, hope and truth.

Jesus knows that in our human condition, we often seek the answer to this question from a place of restlessness. He also knows that “what” we are looking for, is actually a “who” – Jesus Christ himself.

**Rabbi, where are you staying?**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”

St. Augustine of Hippo sums it up this way, ““You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”

When Andrew and his companion ask Jesus where he is staying, they signal to him a desire to know him more deeply and learn from him. They too likely had restless hearts that led them on this quest for truth, and when the opportunity presented itself for a genuine encounter with “The Way, The Truth, and The Life (John 14:6)”, they were going to seize it.

**Come and See**

God NEVER ceases to draw man to himself – how does God do that? With a subtle invitation to “come and see”. It is an invitation that God extends to us thousands of times per day.

We respond to God’s invitation to “come and see” whenever we reflect on Sacred Scripture, or whenever we pause to pray. We acknowledge it every Sunday when we participate in the Mass. It’s the very summons that draws us into the confessional - and, when the power of this invitation becomes embedded in our heart, we can’t help but extend it to others, especially those with seeking, restless hearts who might not even realize that this invitation is for them as well.

Andrew and his friend spent the day with Jesus, and it changed their lives forever. May our encounters with the Risen Christ fill our hearts so full that we can’t help but spill the love of Jesus Christ onto everyone we encounter.

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

## RELECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) If you had an opportunity to spend the afternoon with Jesus, what is one question you would want to make sure you asked him?
- 2) As followers of Jesus, how can we invite others to “come and see” the incredible gift that is Jesus Christ?
- 3) What is one thing about Jesus that you wish you could share with the entire world?

## CALL TO ACTION

During prayer this week, try to picture Jesus, turning to you with compassionate eyes and asking you, “What are you looking for?” Sit with that question, inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what it is that you are seeking in your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Make an extra effort to show your gratitude to somebody this week, by writing a heartfelt “thanks” or write a thank you note to someone who might not anticipate it.

Invite someone into conversation over coffee or lunch with the intent of getting to know them better.

## CLOSING PRAYER

### **Missionary Discipleship Prayer**

Leader:     *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*  
              *But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?*  
              *And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*  
              *And how can they hear without someone to preach?*  
              *And how can people preach unless they are sent? –Romans 10: 13-15*

All: Heavenly Father ,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us  
with these words from Holy Scripture,

so that we might be strengthened to go forth  
and witness to the Gospel in our daily lives  
through our words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind us:

- If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?
- If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?
- If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

Give us the grace that  
we might hear the call of the New Evangelization

and become a Missionary Disciple, deepening our faith,  
growing in confidence to proclaim the Gospel  
and boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your Son,  
Jesus Christ.

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us.

Inspire us to imitate your example  
as the first disciple of your son, Jesus,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Leader: *Mary, Star of the New Evangelization*, All: pray for us.

*St. Joseph*, All: pray for us.

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, All: pray for us.

*St. John Paul II*, All: pray for us.