



# Life of Christ

## Philip and Nathanael

## John 1:43-51

**Younger Verse**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

**Older Verse**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

**Lesson Goals**

See how Philip wanted Nathanael to know about Jesus  
Share how you can help someone know Jesus

**Welcome Time**

Have you ever had some exciting news to share? It is fun to tell others terrific news. Philip helped Nathanael learn some good news. Listen and see what it was.

**Bible Story**

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus had many friends. He had 12 that were very close to Him. They were friends who left all they had to follow Jesus. Jesus trained them and helped them understand who He was and what God was doing. They were with Jesus the last 3 years of His life on earth. They loved Him very much.

In John 1, we can see the first time Jesus met these 12 men and how He asked each of them to come and follow Him. He never forced anyone to follow Him. All 12 made decisions to leave what they were doing and follow Jesus.

Jesus had seen a man named Philip. Jesus simply said to him, "Follow me."

Philip followed Jesus and was excited to tell his friends about Him. Philip ran to Nathanael, who was sitting under a fig tree. This tree was probably a good, shady place to think and pray. In the summer, fig trees have small fruit called figs.

Nathanael listened as Philip told him about Jesus. Philip said, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Bible. It is God's Son. His name is Jesus and He is from Nazareth."

When Nathanael heard this, he said, "The town of Nazareth! Can anything good come from that town?" (Nathanael probably said this because He knew that God's Son was supposed to come from Bethlehem. We know that Jesus WAS born in Bethlehem.)

Philip didn't try to argue with Nathanael or persuade him. He simply said, "Come and see for yourself."

So, Nathanael and Philip together went to see Jesus. Jesus saw them as they were walking and said to Nathanael, "You are a true man who believes in God. There is nothing false about you."

Nathanael looked puzzled. He said, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were sitting under the fig tree before Philip asked you to come.”

When Nathanael heard this, he knew that Jesus was God’s Son. He knew something that no one else could have known. He shared, “Teacher, You are God’s Son. You are the new King.”

Jesus was amazed that he would believe so quickly. He told him that he would see many great things in the future.

Nathanael did see something very amazing. He saw Jesus when He had come back to life! (John 21) He ate with Jesus and knew that He was alive again!

We do not have an opportunity to see Jesus and touch Him. But, we can know that He is alive and that He is in Heaven. We can read the Bible and know that Jesus did something for us that was so incredible. He died on a cross for all the bad things we have done. He did this so that He could make a way for us to go to Heaven. We don’t just automatically go to Heaven; we must believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our hearts. He gets rid of all the sin in our lives and makes us new on the inside. He helps us do things God’s way and follow Him. Nathanael knew that Jesus was God’s Son and he followed Jesus. Would you like to follow Jesus? Talk to me about it.

In our story, Philip was a good friend. He wanted his friend to know about Jesus. He cared for him. How can you help your friends know about Jesus?

**Learning Activities**

Share ideas/activities to help them learn and share their faith.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Make a hopscotch pattern with chalk and write the words of the verse in the squares. Example: trust, in, the Lord, with, all, your heart. Have fun learning the verse!

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help each person to have the courage to invite their friends to church.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

You may want to let the kids taste figs today. Bring additional snacks too!

Teachers FYI: Some people think that Nathanael and Bartholomew could be the same person. The Bible never mentions this. Nathanael is only mentioned in John, and Bartholomew is mentioned only in Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts.

Planning for August 4th  
Why should I tell others about Jesus?  
Woman at the well  
John 4

## Preschool Lesson for Philip and Nathanael

Jesus had many friends. He had 12 that were very close to Him. (Count to 12 with the kids) They were friends that left all they had to follow Jesus. Jesus trained them and helped them understand who He was and what God was doing. They were with Jesus the last 3 years of His life on earth. (Hold up 3 fingers) They loved Him very much.

In John 1, we can see the first time Jesus met these 12 men and how He asked them to come and follow Him. Jesus was always very gentle and caring. He never forced anyone to follow Him. All 12 left what they were doing and followed Jesus immediately.

Jesus had seen a man named Philip. Jesus simply said to him, "Follow me."

Philip followed Jesus and was excited to tell his friends about Him. Philip ran to Nathanael. (Pretend like you are running) Nathanael was sitting under a fig tree. This tree was probably a good place to think and pray. It probably was a good, shady place to sit and rest, too. In the summer, fig trees make small fruit called figs. You can make jam out of them and eat them on biscuits.

Nathanael listened as Philip told him about Jesus. Philip said, "We have found God's Son. His name is Jesus and He is from Nazareth."

When Nathanael heard this, he said, "The town of Nazareth! Can anything good come from that town?" (Nathanael probably said this because He knew that God's Son was supposed to come from Bethlehem. We know that Jesus WAS born in Bethlehem.)

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Nathanael did see something very amazing. He saw Jesus when He had come back to life! (John 21) He ate with Jesus and knew that He was alive again!

In our story, Philip was so gentle and kind. He wanted his friend to know about Jesus. He cared for him. How can you help your friends know about Jesus?

Sing a song or make up one. (For example, you may want to change the words of "Come and go with me to my Father's House" to "Come and go with me, to see Jesus Christ." Let the kids help you sing and have fun together. Small kids love to sing familiar songs over and over. It also helps them learn them. They also LOVE finger motion songs.

Play "Follow the Leader."

Hands-on Activities  
for  
Philip and Nathanael

Do your friends know that you believe in Jesus? Take time to share with your friends what it means to believe in Jesus. Teachers, you may want to practice helping them know how to share (it will also be an opportunity for some to accept Christ).

Make fig tree pictures.

Enjoy eating fig preserves or jam on crackers or bread.

Talk about what it means to be a friend, not getting angry or forcing people to follow you or do what you want.

Philip and Nathanael followed Jesus. This lesson may be an opportunity for some of the children to trust Christ. Be sensitive to their questions.

Design invitations to your Bible study church.

Create Marshmallow people. Put small marshmallows on toothpick to form a person. Talk about how we can be a friend to others. (Idea from Steven Burgin)

Make friendship necklaces. The child will keep half and give the other half to friend.

Play Follow the Leader. Talk about how Jesus' friends followed Him.

For older students, the verse makes it clear that we should be ready to tell about Jesus, if someone asks. Try some case scenarios: at school, on the playground, at home, etc. Would they be ready? How can they be ready?