



GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN SURPRISING WAYS

Day 1: Come and See

Read John 1:35-43. Notice Jesus' invitation in verse 39. Jesus invites us to come to Him; He invites us into relationship with Him, and we then are to invite others. It is our voices Jesus uses to call others to "come and see"(verse 46). Consider if Jesus is calling you to "come and see," to come and know His heart of love. Or, perhaps, He is waiting for you to invite someone else to "come and see." Read Matthew 11:28-30; 25:34; Mark 10:21; John 4:29; 21:12; and Revelation 3:20. Jesus' call is to know Him; it is a call to discipleship, sacrifice, blessing, comfort, service, and eternal life. Thank Jesus for calling you.

Day 2: The Deep Desire to Be Known

Have you ever walked into a crowd and longed to see someone who could call you by name, someone to whom you are known? On a deeper level, have you, or do you, long for someone to really know you and yet love you without measure? Read John 1:45-51. Upon realizing that he is known, Nathanael proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God, the King of Israel. Is it comforting or scary to know that Jesus knows you completely? Read Psalm 139:1-6 and Romans 6:6-11; 8:38-39. Bow before the God who knows and loves you. Tell someone about God's love.

Day 3: He Knows Your Name

Most people appreciate being called by name. Some are offended if their names are forgotten or mispronounced. God knows our names. God knows all about us, and yet God loves us. Read the following verses, basking in God's intimate love for you: Psalm 139:13-18,23-24; Isaiah 43:1; 46:3-4; 49:15-16a; Jeremiah 1:4-8; and John 10:3-4. Some of these words are spoken to individuals or to Israel, but the heart of these messages is for each of us; God knows us by name; God loves us and calls to us. Thank God for calling you by name. Embrace God's love.

Day 4: Life's Greatest Adventure

Have you ever heard faith defined by the acronym Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him? Do you see your faith as a glorious adventure with Jesus? Read John 1:35-51 and Acts 1:9-11. Notice the eagerness with which these early followers of Jesus leave what is behind, put their trust in Jesus, and commit their lives to Him. Hear what the writer of Hebrews says in 12:1-2. Are you eager for the adventure of a faith walk with Jesus? Do you see your Christianity as a "religion" or as a relationship, a journey, with Jesus? If you are unsure, re-read the texts and notice how these early Christians viewed things. Thank Jesus for calling you into life's greatest adventure.

Day 5: Is God Using Your Voice?

Read John 1:43-51. Take note of all the invitations that are given. Did these early followers of Jesus wait until their faiths were mature and they knew Jesus well before inviting others to "come and see"? They had been waiting for the Messiah, and upon meeting Him, they were incredibly eager to invite others into relationship with Jesus. Have you ever told anyone about Jesus? Have you invited someone to church so that he/she might hear the good news? Read Acts 1:8 and Romans 10:8-15.

The disciples began by sharing Jesus with those closest to them. Ask the Spirit to give you opportunities this week to share the love of Jesus with family and friends.

Day 6: You Are God's Instrument

Yesterday we noted all the invitations in John 1:43-51. Read the text again and notice that Andrew and Philip immediately invite others to come and meet Jesus. And those whom they invite, Simon and Nathanael, find that Jesus already knows them. Read Ezekiel 18:23; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4-6; and 2 Peter 3:9. God's desire is that all would be saved; God's love knows no limits. We too are called to love without limit. Yesterday we prayed about sharing with people close to us. Today consider making a list of people for whom you will pray, people whose hearts you will ask the Spirit to prepare to hear Jesus' invitation. Ask if you are to be the messenger.

Day 7: Affirmed in God's Love

Where do you most feel affirmed in God's love? Is it in your family, in your church? One by one, Jesus invites the disciples into relationship with Him. He calls them by name; He knows them intimately; He challenges them to "come and see" and to follow Him. And He invites them into community. In John 1:41-46, notice how God uses the voices of Andrew and Philip to call others to Jesus. And just as He uses human voices to call people to Jesus, He uses human arms to embrace and words to encourage others with Jesus' love. Read John 13:34-35; 15:9-13; 17:20-26. Pray for your family, your friends, and your church. Thank God for the gift of communities of faith.