

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
Sunday of Orthodoxy

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathaniel

Read the Gospel Passage for this Sunday

John 1:43-51

Contextual Background:

This Sunday is the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We begin our Lenten journey celebrating the saints depicted in icons and the lives they lived, as well as remembering that God was revealed to us through Jesus Christ, and that humanity has seen Him and experienced Him.

In this reading, there is initial skepticism of Jesus from Nathaniel, because he does not believe a prophet, a messiah, let alone anything good come out of a small town such as Nazareth. This town was not close to any major city nor did it have a great population. It was looked down upon, seen as remote, and today we might call the people who live there as “bumpkin” or “hillbilly”.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you get some good news, who is the first person you want to share it with? Why?

2. When you are recommended to watch/read a book, movie, or news source/article, how do you determine if it's worth your time?
 - a. If a close friend says they/it is good, I'll take their word on it
 - b. If lots of people already like it/them, I give it a shot
 - c. I read reviews and articles first and do my own research
 - d. I tend to not trust those opinions. I stick to what I already know.
 - e. I pray for guidance and protection

3. What do you think are some external things people judge you on without getting to know you first (ie, where you are from, how you dress, etc)
 - a. What happened after those judgements/prejudices were made?
 - b. What do people not see, not know, or miss out on when you are judged on these things?

4. When are some times you have judged someone else without getting to know them? What did you judge that person on?

5. Nathaniel met Jesus with skepticism. When have you felt skeptical about God, Jesus, or of faith?

6. Nazarenes were considered “other” or “those people” that weren’t frequently spoken to.
 - a. How easy or difficult is it for you to reach out to strangers?
 - b. What sometimes gets in the way with you getting to know someone or deepen a relationship with someone?
 - c. Who are some people or groups you’d rather not associate with?
 - d. What might be missed by avoiding said people or groups?

7. Nathaniel is motivated to follow Jesus after Jesus shows him his intimate knowledge of Nathaniel. What motivates you to follow Jesus?