

## John 1:19-51 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To cultivate our awe of who Jesus is that we might follow him more fully in our lives.

**Icebreaker Suggestion:** What is the most awe-inducing place or building you have been to?

**Transition:** There is a difference between a travel brochure with a photo and actually being there. Dave mentioned that the author of this gospel, John, didn't just write data about who Jesus is, but wanted "to generate a heart-transforming wonder and adoration" for Jesus. These titles for Jesus can easily become rote Sunday School answers, but are meant to draw us into an awe with who Jesus is just as they did for those who first followed Jesus.

### Discussion

1. If you were to put it into your own words, what was it about Jesus that made people follow him?

Read John 1:29-34 out loud.

2. Why do we need to know that Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?"
3. Dave said that our sin is an all or nothing problem much like trying to jump the Grand Canyon. Partial righteousness still leaves us short. Partial forgiveness still leaves us short. This means how we deal with our sin matters tremendously. Dave mentioned the congressman who stole the pope's glass of water as a strange way to deal with sins. What do we do to deal with our sins instead of coming to the one who takes away the sins of the world (e.g. minimize, deny, blaming, makeup by being religious)?
4. If the sign for whether we are believing that Jesus is the lamb of God is whether we run to him in and with our sin, then what does it look like to do just that?

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Read John 1:35-42 out loud.

5. What role did John the Baptist play in helping people to follow Jesus? What role did Andrew play in bringing his brother to follow Jesus? What part do we play? Is there a person we feel we need to invite to come and see?
6. Jesus changes Simon's name to Peter just as God changed names in the Old Testament (e.g. Abram, Sarai, Jacob). What does this tell us about Jesus? What does this say about what Jesus wants to do in our lives?

Read John 1:43-51 out loud.

7. Here we see several names given to Jesus: "him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote," "the Son of God," "the King of Israel," and "the Son of Man." How do these titles tell us more about who Jesus is?
8. Nathanael's first reaction was to ask: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" His biases keep him from being open to consider Jesus. What biases might keep people from considering Jesus in our day and age? How do these biases make us embarrassed to invite people to come and see Jesus?
9. John the Baptist and these early disciples all declared rightly who Jesus is. We see them all struggle to believe in the chapters to come what they declared here. They understood something, but still had all kinds of misunderstandings mixed in their heads. At this point, they spoke better than they understood, but they grew into that better understanding. How does this shape how we think about Christian growth?

### Summary Questions

10. If John is trying to move us into awe of who Jesus is, how has your awe grown as a result of this passage?
11. Dave mentioned that these claims of Jesus are binary: either they are true or false, trustworthy or contemptible. If they are true, they demand a response from us. The word "follow" is mentioned four times in this passage. How is God calling you to follow him more in your life?

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12. How do we need to play a part in inviting people to “come and see” Jesus? What might that look like? Who is God calling you to take a step towards initiating a conversation?

### Sharing and Prayer Time

Consider spending some time praising Jesus together for who He is.

If people shared ways they want to follow Jesus more, pray for each other those needs.

Perhaps let each person pray silently for someone they want to come to know Jesus.