

Finding and Following

Key Verse:
“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.”

Isaiah 55:6

Extra: What do you think would make anyone want to be Jesus' disciple?

Level 4 lesson 5

Read John 1:35-51 and 2 Timothy 3:10-17

One day, as John the Baptist saw Jesus walking along, he said to two men (Andrew and John) who were with him, “Look! There is the Lamb of God.” When the men heard John the Baptist say that, they straight away followed Jesus. Jesus knew that they were following and He turned and asked, “What are you looking for?” They answered, “Master, where do You live?” Jesus replied kindly, “Come and see.”

So Jesus took Andrew and John to the house where He was staying, and they stayed with Him. After that they were almost always with Him, for they knew He was from God. Andrew had a brother called Simon. He went to find him and then told him the wonderful news, “We have found the Messiah!” Then he took Simon to Jesus, who renamed him “Peter.” From that moment, Simon Peter became a disciple of Jesus too.

These first disciples (Peter, John, and Andrew) were fishermen. Although it was a hard job being out in their boats all day and sometimes at night, they loved their healthy, outdoor life. Yet when Jesus called them to follow Him, they left their boats and homes and went with him. Did they think Jesus could make them rich? No! They knew Jesus was poor and had no home of His own, and in fact they were often tired and hungry.

The day after Peter had joined them, Jesus was walking to another place, when He met a man called Philip. “Come with Me,” Jesus said to him. Without a question or doubt Philip followed Him; he too, recognised that Jesus was the Messiah promised by God. Philip had a friend called Nathaniel, and he wanted to bring him to Jesus. So he went to him, and said, “We have found the one



Moses wrote about in the Law!” But Nathaniel wasn’t so sure. “Come and see,” was Philip’s answer. So off they went together.

As Jesus saw Nathaniel coming, He said, “Here is an honest man!” Nathaniel was surprised to hear Jesus say this, and asked in wonder, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathaniel did not doubt any longer. He exclaimed, “Master, You are the Son of God, You are the King of Israel!”

Notice that these men who became followers or disciples of the Lord Jesus, all did so when they realised Who He was. They found out that He was the Christ, the Son of God, and so were prepared to follow Him, to belong to Him and serve Him. Today we know that He is the Son of God, the promised Saviour. We know also that we may become His disciples if we trust Him to save us from sin, then follow and obey Him.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who did Andrew bring to the Lord Jesus?

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2. Jesus commended Nathaniel by saying he was...?

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3. What did Nathaniel discover about the Lord Jesus?

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4. Why were these men willing to become followers of the Lord Jesus?

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5. How may we become true disciples of the Lord Jesus? Fill in the vowels:

TR__ST H__M T__ S__V__ __S FR__M S__N
 T__ __ __ F__LL__W __ND __B__Y H__M

My Name is _____ Age _____

At a Wedding

Key Verse:

“Do whatever He tells you.”

John 2:5

Extra: How did Jesus show His glory by this miracle?

Level 4 lesson 6

Read John 2:1-11 and John 1:1-5

Have you ever been to a wedding? Exciting isn't it? One day the Lord Jesus, His mother, and His disciples were invited to a wedding in a little town called Cana, not far from Nazareth, where Jesus had lived as a boy. The wedding was held in the bridegroom's house. However, as the celebrations went on, a terribly embarrassing thing happened - the supply of wine ran out before the feast was over!

Mary saw what had happened, so she went to Jesus and said quietly, "They have no wine." She knew how kind He was, and was confident He could help. But Jesus gave a somewhat strange answer. He said to Mary, "Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour is not yet come!" What did He mean?

Well firstly, we mustn't think that Jesus spoke rudely or unkindly. The word 'woman' was used in those days as we use the word 'lady.' When Jesus said, "My hour is not yet come," He meant that what Mary was asking Him to do (a miracle) would signal the beginning of the great work He had come to do. His mother simply said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you!" What faith she displayed!

Along the wall of the room there were six large stone water pots. These had been filled with water for washing the guests' feet and hands before sitting down to the feast. Now they were empty. Jesus commanded the servants to fill the water pots with water. Perhaps they wondered at His strange command, but remembering what Mary had said, they filled them up to the brim.

Then Jesus said, "Now, take some to the person in charge!" What? Take normal water to the



Master of Ceremonies (MC) instead of wine? The servants were probably expecting some mocking abuse, but obediently did as Jesus had said. But when the MC tasted the wine, he was delighted! He called the bridegroom, and jokingly said that at most wedding feasts they gave the best wine first, but added, "You have kept the best wine until now!" He did not know Jesus had made it, but Jesus' disciples did! This was the first of many miracles that Jesus would perform to help people and demonstrate that He really was God. Now they believed more firmly in Him than before.

This story has a wonderful lesson for us in just two words: TRUST and OBEY. Yes, that's it! If the words of the Lord Jesus had not been obeyed, the miracle probably would not have taken place. The Lord Jesus can and will do much for us today if we will TRUST and OBEY. He speaks to our hearts from His Word, the Bible, and all who will believe His words and obey His message will experience His blessing, help, and saving power.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who were invited to the wedding at Cana?

2. What did Mary say to the servants after she had told the Lord Jesus that there was no more wine left?

3. What do you think about what Jesus told the servants to do?

4. What happened to the water taken in the pots to the MC?

5. What important lesson do we learn from this story?

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Birthdays

Key Verse:
“You must be born again.”

John 3:7

Level 4 lesson 7

Extra: Imagine you were Nicodemus. How would you respond to Jesus?

Read John 3:1-17 and 1 John 5:9-12

What happy days birthdays are! I don't suppose you ever forget yours, do you? No; you are always careful to remember that special day each year. Today our lesson is about a man who had two birthdays. In fact, we could tell you of many people who have two birthdays each year. Perhaps you think that is very strange, but really, they are wise people as you will soon see. Nicodemus, the man in our story today, was a Pharisee; a very religious man. He was a ruler of the Jews, and a very wise and greatly respected man who lived a good life. One night, he came to have a talk with Jesus. Nicodemus had heard a lot about what Jesus had done, so he was keen to have a personal chat with Him.

It was hard for a man in his prestigious position to go to Jesus in broad daylight, so he went when it was dark. Almost as soon as Nicodemus started to talk, the Lord Jesus said, “You must be born again.” This surprised Nicodemus, and he couldn't understand what Jesus meant. Then Jesus went on to say, “Unless a man is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” Jesus knew the heart of Nicodemus; He knew he was an educated, religious man who regularly said prayers, attended the temple services, studied the Word of God, and took the Ten Commandments as his rule of life, and tried to obey them. He kept himself from the wicked and sinful practices of other people.

All this, however, was not enough to enter God's Kingdom and prepare him for Heaven. Jesus knew that although Nicodemus did all these things, there was sin in his heart that needed to be cleansed away. He told Nicodemus that he needed a spiritual change in his life, and said, “You must be born again.” In other words, “You need a new nature; a total change of heart.”



How could this take place? Jesus explained that soon He would be crucified to death, to take the punishment for our sins. He was to be the sin bearer for all the people of the world. All those that would believe on Him and accept His shed blood as payment for their sin, would be indwelt by God's Holy Spirit. They would change from being “dead in sin” to being “made alive” by the Spirit of God.

Jesus went on to explain that this amazing change would be an inward change. We will still look much the same physically on the outside, but like the wind which we can't actually see, the work of God's invisible Holy Spirit would be seen by the change in our lives and behaviour. That's what being 'born again' means. We do not read here that Nicodemus actually did what Jesus said right then, but later in John's Gospel we read that he had believed and changed. So Nicodemus, although a grown-up man, was 'born again' and became a child of God. What about you, friend? Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as YOUR Saviour and been 'born' by the Spirit of God into His wonderful family? Have you got two birthdays each year, or only one?

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. a. What was the name of the man who came to Jesus by night?
 b. Why did he come?

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2. How would you describe this man?

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3. What did the Lord Jesus say to him? Fill in the vowel letters.

Y _ _ M _ ST B _ B _ RN _ G _ _ N.

4. Why did the Lord Jesus Christ die on the cross?

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5. What does being 'born again' mean?

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A Samaritan Woman



Key Verse:

“Now... we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.”

John 4:42

Read John 4:1-42 and 1 John 4:7-12

On one occasion, Jesus decided to return to Galilee through Samaria. Most Jews avoided Samaria because of a long-running feud between them and the Samaritans. Around midday on the second day's walk, Jesus neared the village of Sychar. He and the disciples were tired and hungry. Jesus sat down to rest at the famous 'Jacob's Well,' about a mile from the village, while the disciples went on into the village to buy bread.

As he waited, a woman came to draw water from the well. He stood up and asked her for a drink. Surprised, she looked at Him and said, "How can you (a Jew) ask me (a Samaritan) for a drink?" Jesus felt sorry for her. Not only did this woman need water from Jacob's well, she needed spiritual water that only God could supply to cleanse and refresh her heart and soul.

He said, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where can you get this 'living water'? Jesus gently replied, "Who ever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

Now this woman of Samaria was a social outcast; the other women would not have anything to do with her because of her immoral lifestyle. That was probably why she'd come to the well at midday alone. She probably felt trapped by her sinful life and bad reputation, but the Lord Jesus looked at her with great pity in his heart. He knew her immoral ways had not brought her satisfaction or real happiness. Oh how she needed His spiritual 'water' and so to be forgiven and cleansed inside and made right with God!

Quietly, Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back here." Embarrassed, the woman replied, "I have no husband." Jesus told her He knew all about the 'husbands' she'd had, and that she was currently just living with another man! Sensing that this stranger, with the piercing gaze who seemed to know all about her, must be some sort of prophet, the woman guiltily changed the subject to the religious feud between the Jews and Samaritans. She probably hoped to avoid any further discussion of her sinful life too. Finally, after some discussion, she said, "When Christ comes, He will explain everything." Then Jesus made this wonderful statement, "I who speak to you, am He!"

At this point, the disciples arrived from the village with the bread they had bought. They were amazed to see Jesus speaking with this Samaritan woman. Jesus' words had penetrated this poor woman's guilty heart though. She saw how impure her life was and how far she was from God. No-one had ever spoken to her the way Jesus did. Leaving her pot by the well, she hurried into the city to tell everyone about her wonderful talk with Jesus.

"Come see a man who told me everything I ever did!" she said. "Surely this must be the Christ (Saviour)!" So the people came to see and hear for themselves. Many believed in Jesus when they heard His teaching and saw the change in this woman. They said, "This man really is the Saviour of the world." What a wonderful discovery! Have YOU realised that the Lord Jesus is the Saviour? Have you believed in Him and asked Him to be YOUR Saviour and make you clean from sin?

Extra: What can you find out about the Jews and Samaritans?

Level 4 lesson 8

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to go through Samaria?

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2. Why was Jesus sorry for the woman who came to draw water?

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3. Why did the lady not want anything more said about her life?

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4. What did she do when she discovered who Jesus was?

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5. What was the people's reaction to all this?

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