



Gospel of John 1-12

Finding the Messiah

Did you find God or did He find you?
What do you seek from God?
Does God have a new name
waiting for you?

A. Jesus is Called...this passage reveals six titles given to Jesus: Five by the disciples and one by Jesus. What do you call Jesus? Do you use any of these titles or names?

1. The Lamb of God: [:36] John may have thought of the lamb offered in the Temple, the paschal lamb, and the suffering servant.

2. Rabbi: [:38] In New Testament times this term was mostly 'honorary' of any 'teacher' of the Torah.

3. Messiah: [:41] The prophesied "Coming One" in His role as prophet, priest and King. The 'Anointed' one!

4. Son of God: [:49] Term used to express the deity of Jesus of Nazareth as the one, unique Son of God

5. King of Israel: [:49] This title was used by the Palestinian Jews for the Messiah and here Nathanael applies it to Jesus.

6. Son of Man: [:51] Jesus uses this term 80 times to describe Himself. The term replaced the ladder in Jacob's dream signifying that Jesus was the means of access between God and man. Also see *Daniel 7:13-14*.

B. The Disciples Follow...

The first five disciples encounter the Messiah!
Have you encountered Him?

1. Andrew, John and Peter *John 1:35-42*

(a) **Leaving John:** [:35-37] It was as if John said, "There's the Lamb of God follow Him."

(b) **What do you seek?** [:38-39] The first seeker friendly encounter? Jesus simply said, "...come and see."

(c) **We have found the Messiah:** [:40-42] Andrew engages in the most basic of evangelism—ministering to our family. Jesus gives Simon a new name—Cephas (Peter). God also gives a new name to the overcomers. *Rev 2:17*

(d) **Instant transformation:** [:42] Jesus effects an immediate change in Simon by changing his name to Cephas.

2. Philip and Nathanel *John 1:43-51*

(a) **Follow me:** [:43-44] It appears that Jesus 'found' Philip and called him to be a disciple.

(b) **Philip finds Nathanael:** [:45-46] Nathanael is doubtful about Jesus since he comes from Nazareth.

(c) **No deceit here:** [:47] Jesus calls Nathanael an 'Israelite without deceit,' a subtle glance back to Jacob (the deceiver) who became Israel—the chosen of God.

(d) **The ladder to heaven:** [:48-51] Nathanael believed because of a miracle—but Jesus tells him there is a greater miracle—salvation for all who believe. Jesus uses Jacob's 'ladder dream' to reveal to Nathanael that He, Jesus, is the Son of Man—the ladder of God for all who believe.

John 1:35-51 (NKJV)

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. **36** And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold** the **Lamb of God!**" **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **38** Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "**Rabbi**" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the **Messiah**" (which is translated, the Christ). **42** And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." **46** And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" **48** Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." **49** Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the **Son of God!** You are the **King of Israel!**" **50** Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." **51** And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the **Son of Man.**"