



Near and Now

Called – The First Disciples
by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox

Warm-up Question

When have you received a surprising invitation?



Photo by Frank Leuderalbert on [Unsplash](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

Come and See

Read [John 1:35-46](#)

Bible Story Reflection

Invitations come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and for a variety of different occasions and experiences – birthday parties, housewarmings, graduations, business openings, formal events, weddings, baby showers, and the like. Some invitations are elegant, mailed in double envelopes with a gold embossed address. Others are posted on social media or sent via text. And still others are spoken person-to-person. Some are issued weeks in advance, with a “save-the-date” given a year in advance, and others are delivered spur of the moment.

In the story of the call of the first disciples, we find the same invitation being issued twice – once by Jesus and a second time by Philip. The invitation is simple, spoken, and only three words: Come and see. Both times the invitation is spoken it is in response to a question, and it is a down-to-earth, yet profound, demonstration of sharing the faith. Jesus begins it, Philip continues it, and 2,000+ years later, it is still how the story of Jesus is shared best. Person-to-person, without efforts to argue or persuade, cajole or convince – simply the encouragement to come and see for yourself.

Each and every one of us receives this same invitation from Jesus, the invitation to “come and see.” Come and see who Jesus is. Come and see what God’s love is all about in the waters of baptism. Come and see how Jesus nourishes you for the journey with bread and wine. Come and see how your sins are forgiven, you are knit by grace into the Body of Christ, you are embraced for who you are, you are loved into new life, and you are sent out to bear witness to what this life lived in relationship with Jesus is all about. You are sent out to call others through the same invitation that you yourself have received, “come and see.”

Discussion Questions

1. Who has invited you to “come and see” Jesus?
2. Is it easy or difficult to invite others to “come and see” Jesus? Explain.
3. Talk about a time when you invited someone to “come and see” Jesus.
4. What is the difference between inviting people to “come and see” Jesus and trying to convince them something about Jesus?
5. Is it easier to invite someone you know to “come and see” Jesus or someone you don’t know?
6. “Come and see” is a promise wrapped up in an invitation. “Come” is the invitation. “See” is the promise. What does this mean for you?
7. How do you think Andrew would tell this story?
8. How do you think Philip or Nathanael would tell this story?
9. What are the values in this story?
10. How is this story calling to you today?

Activity Suggestions

Think of one person you can invite to “come and see” Jesus this week. Make a plan to do so.

Act out this story. Then, role play a contemporary adaptation of this story. As you create your role play, imagine a realistic scenario in which you could invite someone to “come and see” Jesus.

Text, email, or write an encouraging message or letter to someone you know who needs an encouraging or uplifting word.

Prayer Concerns

Those who are seeking, those who witness to Jesus today, those new to the faith.

Closing Prayer

Prayer: Help me, O God, to call others as you have called me. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

