

## January 14 Answers

- Today we read about the first **disciples** of Jesus (John 1:35–51). The word “disciple” (*mathētēs*) means “learner, pupil, **follower**.” Being a disciple means entering into a **relationship** with the one you are following. Our calling as Jesus’ disciple is to follow Him, learn from Him, and **obey** Him.
- One of the two disciples who left John the Baptist and followed Jesus was **Andrew**. Andrew was from **Bethsaida** of Galilee. His father was John the fisherman and his brother was **Simon** (Peter).
- The other disciple who left John the Baptist to follow Jesus was **John**, the author of this gospel.
- Andrew found his brother and said, “We have found the **Messiah!**” (which means **Christ**). The word itself is a transliteration of the Hebrew word meaning “the **Anointed** One.” The OT backdrop for today’s reading is **Psalm 2**. Jesus is the **Anointed** of Yahweh, the **King** of Israel and the **Son** of God.
- Being a disciple of Jesus means **persuading** others to follow Him. We’re supposed to be out there saying, “Come and see!” just like Nathanael, just like Andrew.
- Jesus looked at Simon, Andrew’s brother, and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called **Cephas** (which means **Peter**).” Cephas is the transliteration of the Aramaic word for “**rock**”. The equivalent Greek expression is **Peter**.
- Philip was the first disciple who was directly **called** by Jesus. Philip was from **Bethsaida**, just like Andrew and Peter.
- Nathanael was from **Cana**. Nathanael’s name is not in the lists of the twelve apostles that are given in Matthew 10 and Luke 6, and this has led many to identify him as **Bartholomew**.
- Philip told Nathanael, “We have found him of whom **Moses** in the Law and also the **prophets** wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Jesus is mentioned in **Deuteronomy 18:15**—“The Lord your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among you...”
- Jesus said to Nathanael, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Jesus’s point is: “Behold, a descendant of **Jacob** the **deceiver** in whom there is no deceit!”
- Jesus said, “You will see greater things than these. Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see **heaven** opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the **Son** of **Man**.” This statement alludes to Jacob’s vision of the ladder between heaven and earth (Gen 28:12). Jacob understood the vision to mean that **God** had come down from heaven to earth. Indeed, Jesus was exactly that—the Messiah, the **Word** of God incarnate, come down from heaven to earth.
- ‘Son of Man’ was Jesus’ favorite way of telling people who he really was without actually saying, “I am the **Messiah**.” The title comes from **Daniel 7:13–14**. The Son of Man is none other than the Messiah of Psalm 2, the King of Israel, and the Son of God incarnate.