

SEASON 2 EPISODE 2 - I SAW YOU



The CHOSEN

Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man." ~John 1:43-51

Watch

This episode takes place in Bashan, the vast fertile plains east of the Sea of Galilee and then in Caesarea Philippi, a city just 15 miles north of the sea of Galilee on the foothills of Mount Hermon. It portrays life on the road for Jesus' earliest disciples and what could have played out when Jesus first called Philip to follow him. It also creates a fictional backstory for Nathanael as a Jewish architect who had a failed project which suddenly derailed his career. It leads up to the account in John 1 when Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus. It addresses how Jesus' disciples all have different perspectives and different levels of maturity in faith, but each serves an important role.

Discuss

- 1) The disciples quote together Ezekiel 39:9-10a. Look at the surrounding context of this prophecy to see what type of Messiah they were most excited about. Do you have any prophecy memorized?
- 2) Philip refers to Jesus disciples as different from "sleepers" because they are "awake." How is this metaphor most often applied in our culture today? Discuss the significance of this terminology when used as a biblical metaphor (Eph 5:14, 1 Thes 5:4-8). How do you "stay awake"?
- 3) Evaluate Philip's statement, "Jesus doesn't love everything about religion."
- 4) Simon Peter is fictionally portrayed as embarrassed that he had previously called John the Baptizer "Creepy John." What does it seem the writers were trying to convey by this? What type of a person might relate to that type of a Peter?
- 5) Matthew is portrayed as taking notes for his gospel account. He notes how Jesus' teachings are quarreled over or misunderstood by many, so he desires to share an accurate account. Does this portrayal of Matthew's work conflict with the teaching of divine inspiration of the Scriptures?

Learn

- a) When Matthew and Phillip are talking, they conclude that they both have felt like outcasts. Share how being a disciple of Jesus has made you feel on the one hand accepted, and on the other hand an outcast.

- b) Nathanael spent time under a fig tree sometime before he met Jesus (John 1). This series depicts him as praying Psalm 27:7,9 and in emotional turmoil over his failure. He cries out, "Do you see me?" What encouragement is there for those who feel they've failed in their goals to serve God?

- c) This episode continues to portray conflict between the disciples. Explain the struggle in the quote found at the bottom of the page. How is it resolved?

- d) In this episode Peter complains to Jesus that some followers are slowing down the group with insignificant matters. Jesus responds, "If someone is thinking about things which you feel is slowing everyone down maybe you need to slow down." Explain why this is vital advice for those who are zealous with their ministry planning.

- e) This series creates fictional backstories for people like Nathanael and extra dialogue for Jesus and his disciples. Review the pros and cons of biblical historical fiction.

Rejoice

- 1) How does this episode portray different levels of maturity in faith? How do you see that same difference of maturity of faith in people in your life who need Jesus? How can we best serve and patiently explain Jesus' mission to each person at each level?

- 2) Nathanael scoffs at the idea of Jesus being from a backwater town like Nazareth. How does the lowliness of the Messiah bring us from scoffing to amazement when we come to faith?

Peter to Jesus: "With greater numbers comes different opinions and perspectives...we're all unified behind you."

Jesus: "You're all unified?"

Peter responds, "Well, we all agree on you. But sometimes you're away and we don't have your authority to defer to... we need some type of... (structure, schedule, authority)."
