

Come, see, hear

John 1.43-51 Epiphany 2

Today we hear about two friends who have an unexpected encounter with Jesus and initially react in very different ways. Together, Philip and Nathanael help each other to understand who Jesus is and they begin a journey that will redefine who they are.

This week we explore how we help each other hear God.

Prepare your children's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Some of us will be like Philip, keen to follow straight away, and some of us will wonder, like Nathanael, 'why would God be interested in me?'. This story shows that wherever we are, Jesus finds us and knows us. Are you more like Philip or Nathanael, or somewhere in between?

This passage and this session are about helping each other hear from God. You do this all the time as a children's leader! So, as you explore with the children how they can help others hear from God also think about what helps you hear from God.

Provide the following play materials for very young children throughout the session: teddies/dolls and play food, cups, saucers etc. around a table.

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all links, templates and images. Extra ideas can be found on page 16.

Children's session

Gather

Use the song, prayer and activity to gather the group and introduce the theme. (5 mins)

♪ Sing to the tune: *Hickory, dickory, dock*

We have a friend we can trust,
who shows us that faith is a must.
When things get tough, and life feels rough,
walk even closer to God.

We praise you, Lord Jesus, that we have your church to come
Hooray!

That we can see your love in the lives of others: Hooray!
That we can hear your words in the Bible and be encouraged

Hooray!

Amen.

Play a game about introductions

- Sit together and start a clapping pattern, e.g. clap both hands together and then onto your knees as you say: 'I would like to introduce you to my friend. This is...'
- Continue to use the pattern, and ask the children to introduce the person on their right with their name and a fact, e.g. 'This is Josh, he likes football'. Continue until everyone is introduced.

Jesus set off for Galilee. And when he arrived there, he found Philip. Jesus walked towards him. 'Philip,' Jesus said, 'follow me.' Then Jesus walked a little further.

Philip was surprised at the sudden meeting, so he ran to find Nathanael. Excitedly he said, 'I have found him! I have found Jesus, the Messiah, the son of Joseph from Nazareth!' *

Nathanael just laughed out loud. 'What? From Nazareth? You are joking! Nothing good comes from Nazareth!'

Philip looked shocked. 'Of course it can! It is him. Jesus!' But Nathanael just laughed. Philip was disappointed with Nathanael's reaction and decided that there was only one way to change his mind. 'Come and see,' he said. Reluctantly, Nathanael agreed, and off they went.

As they walked towards Jesus, he saw them first. 'Look, here is a good and honest man,' Jesus said, pointing to Nathanael. Nathanael was astonished. Jesus seemed to know him already. 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.



Jesus smiled and told him, 'I saw you sitting under the fig tree.'

Nathanael was very puzzled. Jesus continued, saying, 'I saw you before Philip found you and called you to "Come and see".'

Nathanael looked at Jesus. Then he said to Jesus in amazement, 'You are the Son of God!'

Jesus replied, 'Do you believe because I saw you and recognised you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this. One day you will see heaven opened and the Son of Man coming in glory with angels around him.' *

John 1.43-51

* See *Share the Word*.