

# Come and See

January 18, 2026

John 1:29–42 (NIV)

## Theme:

Christ is revealed through invitation. The disciples follow not because they know everything, but because they are willing to come and see.

## Scripture Focus

- John 1:29–42 records the first followers of Jesus.
- Discipleship begins through witness, curiosity, and invitation rather than certainty.
- John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God.
- Jesus invites seekers into relationship before requiring understanding.
- Faith begins with willingness, not mastery.

## Background and Setting

- The Gospel of John opens with testimony rather than a birth narrative.
- John's focus is on how Christ is revealed to the world.
- John the Baptist's role:
  - Not the light, but a witness to the light.
  - Points away from himself toward Jesus.
- "Lamb of God" imagery:
  - Connects to Israel's sacrificial system.
  - Recalls Passover and deliverance.
  - Points to forgiveness and restored relationship with God.
- This moment occurs before:
  - Jesus performs miracles.
  - Jesus teaches publicly.
- Revelation begins quietly, through encounter rather than spectacle.

## Key Movements in the Passage

### Witness: "Look, the Lamb of God"

- John testifies to what he has seen and experienced.
- He does not argue or explain everything.
- Faithful witness involves:
  - Honesty
  - Humility
  - Pointing toward Christ
- God handles what witness alone cannot accomplish.

### Searching: "What do you want?"

- Jesus turns to the followers and asks a direct question.
- This question addresses desire rather than belief.
- Jesus does not ask:
  - What they know
  - What they believe
  - Whether they are ready
- The disciples' question, "Where are you staying?" shows:
  - Desire for proximity
  - Longing for relationship
  - Curiosity about Jesus' life

### Invitation: "Come and see"

- Jesus responds with invitation rather than explanation.
- "Come and see" emphasizes:
  - Experience before understanding

- Relationship before instruction
- The disciples spend time with Jesus.
- Transformation begins in shared presence.

### **Response: “We have found the Messiah”**

- Andrew shares his discovery with Simon.
- He does not provide proof or persuasion.
- He simply brings Simon to Jesus.
- Jesus renames Simon:
  - Grace precedes understanding.
  - Calling comes before confidence.
  - Identity is shaped by Christ.

### **What This Teaches Us About Faith**

- Faith does not begin with certainty.
- Faith begins with:
  - Curiosity
  - Trust
  - Willingness to follow
- The first disciples:
  - Do not understand everything.
  - Respond to invitation.
- Discipleship grows through:
  - Relationship
  - Time with Christ
  - Shared life
- Grace meets us before we are ready.

### **Implications for the Church Today**

- The church is called to be a witnessing community.
- Our role is to:
  - Point to Christ
  - Extend invitation
  - Trust God with the outcome
- “Come and see” applies to:
  - Those outside the church
  - Long-time believers
  - Those in seasons of doubt or dryness
- Christ continues to invite deeper relationship.

### **Reflection Questions**

- Where have you seen Christ revealed through relationship rather than explanation?
- What do you want from Jesus in this season of your life?
- What fears keep you from responding fully to Christ’s invitation?
- Who might need an invitation instead of answers?
- What would it look like for you to “come and see” again?

### **A Word of Encouragement**

- Discipleship begins with grace.
- Jesus does not wait for perfect faith.
- The invitation still stands.
- Christ is revealed when we are willing to come and see.