

Saint Bartholomew and Nathanael: Come and See

An honest heart learning to follow

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:09 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Nathanael answers Philip's invitation to meet Jesus and grows into faith, following the traditional identification with Bartholomew.

Learning goals Children will recall Philip's invitation and the fig tree, identify the traditional name connection, and practice openness without judging people by origin.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: Have you made a quick guess about someone? Watch how Philip invites Nathanael to meet Jesus rather than remain with his first impression.

Watch and notice

Notice Philip's invitation, the question about Nazareth, Jesus referring to the fig tree, and Nathanael's confession of faith.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Philip invite Nathanael to do?

Come and see Jesus for himself.

2. What did Jesus say that surprised Nathanael?

He had seen him under the fig tree before Philip called him.

3. How did Nathanael answer Jesus?

He recognized him as the Son of God and began following him.

4. How can we avoid unfair first impressions?

Listen, learn a person's name, and treat them kindly instead of judging by hometown or background.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw Philip inviting Nathanael, then a respectful way to learn about someone.

Read & Write Recall the meeting and traditional name connection, then practice truthful welcome.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: practice a kind invitation to a shared activity.

Ages 9-11: explain that the Bible does not explicitly equate Bartholomew and Nathanael; Christian tradition often does.

Beyond a first impression | Optional 4 minutes

Read a pretend example: a new child comes from an unfamiliar town. Write a respectful question and a kind invitation. Discuss how to learn without prying into private information or making assumptions.

Look for understanding Children recall the invitation and treat the identification of the names as tradition rather than explicit biblical wording.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us meet others with honest and open hearts. Teach us to follow you in truth and kindness. Saint Bartholomew, pray for us. Amen.

At home Read John 1:43-51 with an adult and practice a kind invitation to someone.

Handout answer notes Invitation: come and see Jesus. Place: under the fig tree. Welcome: kind and respectful, without stereotypes.

Teach with care

Preview the brief Cross and danger references. Explain that Nathanael's question about Nazareth is not a reason to mock someone's hometown or background. The video follows the traditional identification of Bartholomew with Nathanael; Scripture does not state the identification explicitly. Later mission and martyr accounts have limited historical detail. Dialogue is paraphrased and travel scenes are illustrative. Avoid judging people by their place of origin.

Words to explain Apostle: one sent by Jesus to share his good news. Deceit: deliberately hiding or twisting truth. Tradition: a belief or account handed on through generations.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English subtitle](#)

Scripture: [Philip and Nathanael: John 1 - USCCB](#)

Traditional identification: [Bartholomew - Benedict XVI](#)

Come and see

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Philip invited Nathanael to meet Jesus with an open heart.

Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw Philip inviting Nathanael to meet Jesus.



2 Draw a kind invitation you can offer someone.



Tell How can an invitation help us move beyond a quick judgment?

Pray Jesus, help me be truthful, open, and kind. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

Meeting with an open heart

Saint Bartholomew and Nathanael: Come and See

Recall Philip's invitation and Nathanael's response.

Name _____

1 Recall the invitation

What did Philip ask Nathanael to do?

Philip invited him to ...

2 Recall the surprise

Where did Jesus say he had seen Nathanael?

Jesus saw him ...

3 Practice kindness

Write a respectful invitation for someone new.

I could say ...

Pray Jesus, help me be truthful, open, and kind. Amen.

Go deeper Why should we learn about a person rather than judge them by where they come from?