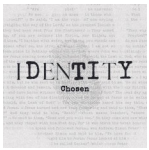

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Identity: Chosen | Part 2

John 1:43-51 | Mar 29, 2026

FIRST BAPTIST METUCHEN

John 1:43-51 - *[43] The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." [44] Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. [45] Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." [46] Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." [47] Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" [48] Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." [49] Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" [50] Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." [51] And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. What does Jesus say about Nathanael in John 1:47 before Nathanael speaks?

2. According to John 1:48, what specific knowledge does Jesus reveal about Nathanael?

3. How does Nathanael respond to Jesus in John 1:49? What titles does he give Jesus?

4. What promise does Jesus make in John 1:50–51 about "greater things?"

5. What imagery does Jesus use in John 1:51, and what Old Testament story does it connect to?

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. What does Jesus' statement about Nathanael having "no deceit" reveal about His knowledge of the human heart?

2. Why is Jesus' knowledge of Nathanael under the fig tree so significant?

   What does it reveal about Jesus' identity?

3. Compare Nathanael's confession ("*Son of God… King of Israel*") with the Palm Sunday crowd. What is the key difference in their understanding?

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4. What does the reference to "*angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man*" teach us about who Jesus is?

5. How does this passage support the idea that calling precedes identity?

APPLICATION | *How should this change us?*

1. How does knowing that Jesus fully sees and knows you (like He does with Nathanael) challenge your tendency to hide or perform?

2. What are your "fig tree moments," those private struggles, doubts, or longings you tend to hide from others?

3. Who is your "Nathanael (someone in your life you need to invite to "come and see" Jesus)"?

4. Are you trying to argue people into faith, or are you inviting them to encounter Christ? How can you shift your approach?

5. In what areas of your life are you settling for spiritual survival instead of pursuing true transformation?

6. What does it practically look like for you this week to live out your Gospel identity as someone called by Christ?

7. What is one concrete step you can take this week to surrender more fully to Jesus' Kingship?

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISE REPORTS