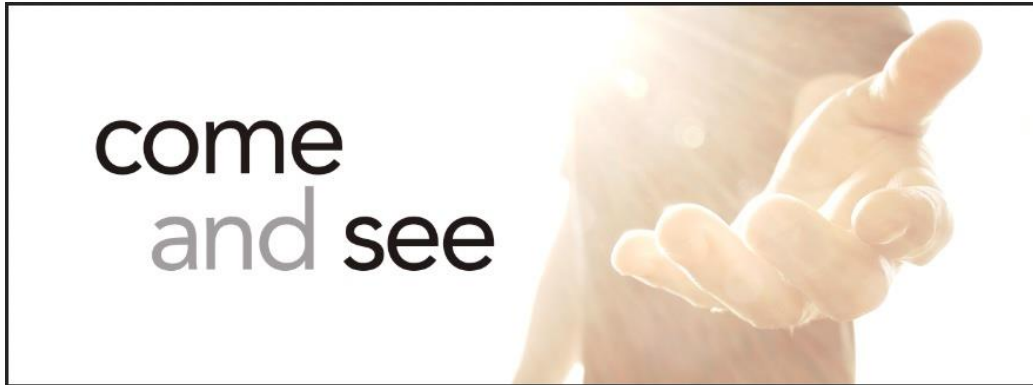


Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Come and See

It's the power of an invitation; to a long-awaited wedding, a party with good friends, a dinner with the new neighbor. Do you remember how it felt? To feel welcome, to be included, to join in with the celebration and connection. In the gospel of John, the life-changing invitation to follow Jesus and to find new life is as simple as, "come and see." Come and see the long-awaited Messiah that everyone is talking about; come and see and witness a life-saving miracle; come and see that the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Join us this May as we reflect on the power of a single invitation, how we have experienced transformation through community with Christ at Revolution, and who we need to invite next. Won't you come and see?

Message Description:

Sometimes we overthink inviting others to church or church events; maybe we don't know how, or we are afraid we will offend others, or we don't know how to answer their questions, or maybe we just fear being turned down. But the power of an invitation can be as simple as; come and see. Come and experience a community who will welcome you and love you no matter what. Come and find a place to ask big questions. Come and find a place to belong. Come and experience the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Come and see.

Key Scriptures:

John 1:35-51

Additional Resources:

Consider an alternate study on the show "The Chosen" by watching season 1 together and discussing each episode during your time together. Episodes can be watched for free on The Chosen app or at <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch?vid=S2:E7&ap=true>.

Check out a trailer for season 1 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

Reach out to Rachel for a study guide on season 1 with teaching notes from the Rev. Dr. C. Chappell Temple!

Questions Related to This Week's Teaching:

1. Who first invited you to church or a significant worshipping community? How did you know them?
2. How did you experience Christ because of that invitation?
3. Do you believe the Christian faith is one you have to see and experience for yourself to believe?
4. What makes you nervous or hesitant about inviting others to worship or another church event?
5. What opportunities do you have to invite someone in your circle of influence to "come and see?"

Going Deeper: What's with all this talk about fig trees?

Read John 1:43-51; Jeremiah 33:15; Daniel 11:7; and Zechariah 3:8-10:

From the Old Testament, there were many titles given for the Messiah—Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Key of David, Desire of Nations, Dayspring, the Seed, the Servant, and the Branch of Jesse. Or simply, the Branch.

- *In Jeremiah 33:15, the prophet promised, "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David."*
- *Daniel promised, "a branch from her roots shall rise up in his place" (Daniel 11:7).*
- *In Zechariah, the prophet promised: I am going to bring my servant the Branch. For on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven facets, I will engrave its inscription, says the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the guilt of this land in a single day. On that day, says the LORD of hosts, a man shall call his neighbor under the vine and fig tree." (Zechariah 3:8b-10).*

Notice the messianic expectation: when the Messiah comes—that is when The Branch comes—an Israelite shall "call" his neighbor under the fig tree. **In this story, Jesus the Messiah calls Philip. Who then calls his neighbor Nathanael, who happens to be sitting under a fig tree—just like the old prophet promised.**

- What effect does Jesus recognizing Nathanael under a fig tree have on Nathanael?
- Why do you think Jesus took this approach when calling Nathanael?
- Why do this matter?
- What does this tell us about how God continues to call others today?

Closing in prayer:

- Begin to pray that God would place a name, or multiple names, on your heart in the coming weeks that you might invite to "come and see" the life-changing grace of Jesus Christ.
- Ask, who in your life needs the support, welcome, and love of a church community like Revolution?
- Ask, who in your life needs to experience freedom? Who in your life is longing for a change?
- Ask, how might we help you invite them to come and check out how God is working in our midst right now?