

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 5, Episode 5

Studying the Word Under a Fig Tree

John 1:47-51

Discussion Questions

1. Read John 1:47-49. What stands out about Jesus' first words to Nathanael? Why do you think Jesus focused on Nathanael's character?
2. Nathanael's skepticism is evident in John 1:46. How does "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" reflect cultural and personal biases?
3. What does Jesus mean by saying, "I saw you under the fig tree"? Why is this significant to Nathanael?
4. How are fig trees symbolic in Jewish culture, and what can this teach us about studying God's Word?
5. Discuss the connection between Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:12-13 and Jesus' words in John 1:51. How does Jesus fulfill the imagery of the stairway to heaven?
6. What does Nathanael's declaration in John 1:49 ("You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel") tell us about his realization of who Jesus is?
7. How does Jesus contrast with cultural expectations of a Messiah or religious leader, particularly as a rabbi from Nazareth?
8. How does Jesus redefine the "dwelling" or "tabernacling" of God's presence through His incarnation (John 1:14)?
9. Why do you think Nathanael's encounter with Jesus revolved around his private spiritual moments under the fig tree? What does this teach about personal devotion?
10. How does Nathanael's story encourage us to approach Jesus with our questions and doubts?

Application Questions

1. How do you approach studying God's Word? Are there ways to deepen your practice, like "sitting under the fig tree" in contemplation?
 2. In what ways do cultural or personal biases shape your expectations of God's work in your life? How can you overcome them?
 3. Jesus recognized Nathanael's heart. What would Jesus say about your character today?
 4. Nathanael moved from skepticism to belief. Can you recall a moment in your life when an encounter with Jesus changed your perspective?
 5. How can you make space for uninterrupted time with God this week to meditate on His Word?
 6. The idea of angels ascending and descending speaks of connection between heaven and earth through Jesus. How does this reality influence your view of prayer and worship?
 7. How can you respond when you encounter skepticism about Jesus, as Philip did with Nathanael?
 8. What can you do this week to recognize and respond to Jesus' presence in your everyday life?
 9. Are there "Nazareths" in your life—places or people you doubt God could use? How might you adjust your view?
 10. In what ways can your personal devotion and study impact the community around you?
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Prayer Prompt

- Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for being the bridge between heaven and earth. Ask Him to give you a heart like Nathanael's, free from deceit, and a hunger for His Word. Pray for deeper personal encounters with Him this week and for wisdom to help others "come and see" His goodness.
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Additional Resources

1. **F260 Bible Reading Plan:**
 - [Foundations F260](#)
 - [New Testament F260](#)
2. **Books by Pastor Robby Gallaty:**
 - *The Forgotten Jesus*
 - *Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples*
3. **BEMA Podcast** (Marty Solomon) – episodes on biblical context

4. **Scripture for Further Study:**

- Genesis 28:10-17 (Jacob's dream)
- Psalm 1:1-3 (meditating on the Word)
- Exodus 25:8-9 (God dwelling among His people)

5. **The Bible in a Year: A Guided Scripture Reading Journey for Women** (CSB Edition)
by Kandi Gallaty