



I'm a Believer

JOHN 1: 43-51

Alfred
Street
BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY

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REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, PASTOR

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Sermon Title: I'm a Believer

Scripture: John 1:43-51



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

This sermon focuses on the central question of John's Gospel: Are you a believer? This question resonates in our hearts because our relationship with Jesus rests on our ability to believe in his words and his work. All of us will struggle with moments of doubt, but this sermon teaches us that in order to follow Jesus we have to believe.

Key Points

Three things every follower of Christ should believe:

1. Whatever God said, we are going to see.
2. God knows everything about us (and loves us anyway).
3. God has greater things in store for us.

Notes for Facilitators:

We are beginning a new sermon series at Alfred Street that will take us through the end of the Village season. All of the sermons will focus on the transformative encounters Jesus has with individuals in the Gospel of John. We encourage you to have your Villagers review the Gospel of John during their devotional time.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Please explain.
2. Have you recently had an “I got next!” moment? What was the most encouraging blessing you recently witnessed in the life of a neighbor?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley says, when you read the Bible, it is a sneak peak into what God is doing in your life. How does that change your perspective of Bible-reading? Do you read the Bible for a sneak peak of your future or for a reminder of what He's already done?
2. The first point of the sermon says "whatever God said, we are going to see." When have you experienced God say something through scripture, bible study, or life experience and you saw that word manifest itself?
3. In John 1:46, Nathanael asks "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Are there places or experiences in your life from which people assumed nothing good could come? How have we limited others this way?

Life Application Questions:

1. In the text, we learn that after deciding to follow Christ, Andrew went to find his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. Later, Philip is called as a follower and he brings Nathanael to Jesus. Do you have that same passion to tell a friend about Jesus? When is the last time you told someone about the gift of Jesus?
2. There is a reference to "belief" 98 times in the book of John. What has been hardest for you to believe? How has that impacted your walk?
3. Pastor Wesley tells a story about his son learning to play basketball with a little more attitude. Where in your spiritual life could you get more aggressive? Where are you standing on the sidelines when God has called you to get in the game?
4. We learned that it's senseless to not confess/repent when God knows everything anyway, so why can it still be difficult to confess/repent? What does your practice of confession/repentance look like?



"Can I Push It?"

In Pastor Wesley's explanation of the gospels, he remarked that "God did more than what was in the Bible and that there is no way for any book to tell you everything that Jesus did." In the book of your life, are there examples of times when God did more for you than what people can see on the surface?

Spirit Work:

God knows what's in our heads and our hearts at all times. The issue is that sometimes we are not honest about the thoughts, emotions, and temptations we are wrestling with. Each day this week, set aside some time to work on a confession journal. Write down everything you may be wrestling with, ashamed of, or trying to get over. Next to your reflections, write a reminder that God already knows about each issue and loves you anyway.



Activity:

If you could selectively choose one story to tell about your life with Christ, what story would you tell? Take a few minutes to think about the book of your life, and jot down some notes about which story you'd choose to tell. Share a 1-minute story from your life that you'd like your Village to know. You may choose to pair share, share in small groups, or in the large group.

Additional Questions for Married Couples Villages:

1. Pastor Wesley highlighted how Jesus' interaction with Nathanael shows how the Lord knows everything about us. How do we mirror that kind of transparency in our relationships? Discuss the value of loving your partner beyond their faults.
2. Greater is on the way. How can you look at the good and/or troubled areas of your marriage and work to love your spouse better? What can you implement to stay positive or get over the tough seasons?

Additional Questions for Young Adults Villages:

1. What comforts you most about God knowing you completely? What about this fact troubles you most?
2. Thinking of your peer group or group of close friends, who within that circle plays the role of Philip by bringing others to Christ? If the person you're thinking of isn't you, what can you do to better emulate Philip? If it is you, what's the typical response from your peers?

Additional Questions for Parents Villages:

1. What is your response when your young child asks, "What makes someone a Christian?" How do you express your beliefs in a way your child will understand?
2. As parents, we model life for our children. We are their first teachers. What is it about our call to be a follower and witness of Christ that can foster the same desire in our child(ren)?

Additional Questions for Women's Villages:

1. When Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus, Nathanael was quite skeptical. Philip does not argue with Nathanael, but in few words responds with "come and see." Describe a time when you were able to help a fellow sister spiritually through her walk.
2. Pastor Wesley reminds us that whatever God said, we are going to see. Can you think of a time when you doubted a promise of God? How has waiting for that promise to be fulfilled impacted your worship and prayer life?