**Jesus and His First Disciples**

**A Bible Story From**

**John 1:29-51**

**Bible Story Number: 2010080**

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**Jesus and His First Disciples**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story is about some of the first followers of Jesus and how they recognized him as the Messiah. The story begins with John the Baptist. He had been teaching and preaching in the wilderness across the Jordan River from Jerusalem. He had been baptizing in the Jordan River and had just recently baptized Jesus.

The Book (or Gospel) of John tells us the events that happened on consecutive days. The first day, John the Baptist responded to questions from the religious leaders. The second day, he told his disciples (followers) that Jesus was the Messiah and he told them what he saw when he baptized Jesus. This story will begin with this second day.

**Story from the Bible**

**John 1:29-51**

This is what the Bible says.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said:

“Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I told you about: ‘After me comes a man who has surpassed me, because He existed before me.’ I didn’t know Him, but I came baptizing with water so He might be revealed to Israel” (John 1:30-31, NIV).

John told how he had seen the Spirit of God come down from heaven like a dove and it landed on Jesus. John said that God had revealed to him that this would be the sign of the Son of God (the Messiah). He said he would be the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The next day, John was with two of his followers (disciples) when he saw Jesus passing by. He said, “Look! The Lamb of God!”

John’s two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, “What are you looking for?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

Jesus invited them, saying, “Come and you’ll see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about ten in the morning.

One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He went and found his brother and told him that he had found the Messiah. Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus.

When Jesus saw Simon he said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which means “Rock”).

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and invited him to come and follow him. Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, which was also the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and told him that they had found the Messiah. He told him he was Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth. Nathanael asked if anything good could come out of Nazareth. Philip just said, “Come and see.”

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, Jesus said, “Here is a true Israelite; no deceit is in him.” Nathanael asked Jesus how he knew him. Jesus responded, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus responded to him, “Do you believe [only] because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” Then he said, “I assure you: You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Did
* What did John the Baptist mean when he saw Jesus and said, “Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”?
* What did John say about the baptism of Jesus?
* What did the two followers of John the Baptist do when John pointed out Jesus and called him the Lamb of God?
* Who did Andrew bring to Jesus?
* What name did Jesus give to Simon Peter?
* Who did Philip bring to Jesus?
* What did Jesus tell Nathanael that convinced him that Jesus was the Messiah?
* What did Jesus say that Nathanael would see?
* Who have you brought to Jesus?
* Who should you bring to Jesus today? (Write their names down.)
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.