



STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Teaching: *Come and See*

Key Scripture: John 1:6–9

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: John 1

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:1–9

Wednesday: John 4

Thursday: Matthew 11:25–30

Friday: Luke 19:1–10

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For

the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

This week, we begin a series called "Rounding the Bases." Whether you're just curious about faith or you've been following Jesus for years, God never intended for you to stand still. In this series we discover four simple steps that move us from simply believing in Jesus to truly living out our faith. Come. Grow. Serve. Share.

The invitation of Jesus has always been the same: Come. From John the Baptist pointing people to Jesus, to Jesus inviting His first disciples to "come and see," Scripture reveals a God who welcomes everyone. Regardless of their past, their doubts, their failures, or what they have to offer, Jesus invites the weary, the rejected, the thirsty, the curious, and the broken to come to Him and discover who He is. John the Baptist understood that his role was not to draw people to himself, but to point them to Jesus, and that is our calling as well. No one else can respond for us; each of us must decide whether we will receive Jesus and follow Him. The invitation is universal, but the response is personal.

Questions: What's your favorite season—winter, spring, summer, or fall? Why?

1. Read John 1:6–9 and 1:35–39. What do these verses tell us about John the Baptist's purpose? What words or phrases stand out to you about the reason God sent John?
2. Read Isaiah 55:1 and Matthew 11:28. Who is invited to come in each passage? What do these invitations tell us about the kind of people Jesus welcomes?
3. Read Luke 19:1–5. What do we learn about Zacchaeus from these verses? How does Jesus respond to him?

4. Looking across these passages—John 1, Isaiah 55, Matthew 11, and Luke 19—what similarities do you see in the people Jesus invites to come? What do you notice about their circumstances and responses?
5. Read John 1:12. Why is it important to recognize that while Jesus' invitation is extended to everyone, each person must respond for themselves?
6. What might Jesus' invitation to "Come and see" look like for you in this season? Is there an area where you need to come to Him with greater honesty, trust, or openness?
7. Challenge: Who is someone in your life who may need to hear or experience the invitation of Jesus? How could you, like John the Baptist, point that person toward Jesus rather than toward yourself?

DIGGING DEEPER

In John's Gospel, there is often a double meaning, or two levels of meaning, in many of the phrases John uses. For example, light can mean both literal and figurative light; darkness can mean both literal and spiritual darkness; and follow can mean both literally following Jesus and following Him in the sense of discipleship.

In John 1:38, Jesus asks an interesting question: "What do you want?" Dr. D. A. Carson suggests that Jesus appears to be asking this question with two levels of meaning. On one level, Jesus is asking the disciples to articulate what is on their minds. But John also wants his readers to reflect on a deeper question: Jesus, the Messiah (the Word made flesh), confronts those who want to follow Him and asks them to articulate what they really want in life. Notice how the disciples respond—they want to know where Jesus is staying. The word John uses here can mean "remain" or "abide," the same word Jesus uses later in John 15:4: "*Remain in me, and I will remain in you.*" When Jesus asks them this question, their response reveals a desire for a close relationship with Him.

How would you answer this question from Jesus: "What do you want?"

—paraphrased from Carson, D.A. *The Gospel According to John*. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids: 1991.