

Philip, the Cautious— February 24-March 2

GAMECHANGERS

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background for John 6:5-7; John 14:7-10

The twelve apostles were chosen and trained by Jesus. 2000 years later, their impact on the world is seen everywhere. These men weren’t CEOs, great speakers, or scholars when Jesus chose them. They were simply ordinary and carried baggage that would have limited their effectiveness. But Jesus called and used these ordinary men to do something extraordinary.

In John 1:43-45, Philip makes his first appearance in the Gospels. In fact, John is the only Gospel writer who includes him in his account. The account of his call in John 1 reveals that he is from the same town as both Andrew and Peter. Considering his city of origin and frequent pairing with Peter and Andrew, it is thought that Philip was also a fisherman.

In John 6:5-7, Philip appears in the feeding of the 5,000. His response to Jesus about the *specifics* of the limitations of feeding so many people reveals a few things about Philip. Just as Judas was appointed treasurer (John 13:29), Philip may have been appointed as the apostolic administrator. As Jesus was “testing” him to see how he might react, Philip’s response shows someone that leaned more toward seeing impossibility rather than possibility.

Again, in John 14:7-10 when Jesus had gathered the disciples in the Upper Room for the Last Supper, Philip reveals his need for the “sure thing”. When Jesus’s heart was heavy, He made big claims both about His divinity and the mission of His disciples. Rather than simply being moved, inspired, and having faith, Philip, the cautious, wants a little more proof.

If we were put in charge of interviewing for more disciples and encountered someone like Philip, he likely would not be our first pick. In a room full of visionary leaders, he would have been the one who appeared to have no faith, no vision, and no trust. But Jesus did choose him. When God changes the world, He uses those who see impossibilities and shows them what is possible.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

March 3	Nathanael – <i>The Prejudiced</i>	John 1:45-49
March 10	Matthew – <i>The Half-Hearted</i>	Matthew 9:9-13
March 17	Simon the Zealot, Thaddaeus, James the Less – <i>The Unseen</i>	Mark 3:13-19, 31-35
March 24	Thomas – <i>The Doubter</i>	John 20:24-29
March 31	Judas – <i>The Traitor</i>	John 12:1-6; Matthew 26:14-16
April 7	Peter – <i>The Performer</i>	Matthew 16:13-18, 21-23