# Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study

# Wednesday, January 13, 2021 - 6pm

*To join the Bible Study:* ***Dial*** *–1-646-547-1640 then enter meeting* ***ID#*****7417349**

 *Please limit the background noise in your home while on the phone line. This way we all can hear better while we study God’s Word. Thank you.*

**Introductions/ Welcome: Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Elder Carolyn Werts**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**The Word: John 1:43-51 -New Revised Standard Version**

### Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

**43**The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” **44**Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45**Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” **46**Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, **“Come and see.”** **47**When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” **48**Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” **49**Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” **50**Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” **51**And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**Reflection:**

In John 1:43-51, we read about the first disciples and their response to Jesus. These verses share several similarities with verses John 1:35-42. The theme of **finding** is common to both accounts. When they found Jesus, Andrew immediately found Peter (vs 35-42) and Philip immediately finds Nathanael (vs 43-51). In both scriptures, when Andrew and Philip find the person they are looking for they say to them “**we have found**”!

Andrew says, “**we have found** the Messiah,” while Philip says, **“we have found** him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote.”(v.46)

What do we learn from this meeting between Jesus and Nathaniel? Jesus is far more than Nathanael ever thought. Jesus is Nathanael’s only hope. We don’t know exactly what Jesus saw or knew about Nathanael under the fig tree. When we reflect on these passages, we do know what Jesus says in the remaining verses of this passage. Jesus tells Nathanael he will “see far greater things than” what Nathaniel will see done through Jesus will far exceed his expectations. Jesus also tells Nathanael why he will see far greater things. Jesus says that Nathanael will see “heaven opened and angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Philip invites Nathanael to “come and see.” **“Come and see”** Jesus has risen and we await the return of Christ. What are some ways that you invite people to *“come and see”* Jesus today? What are some of the places and ways people can “come and see” Jesus in your life?

Have you thought about places you can invite others to come and see? Places like, your own home sharing with family, work, church, even in these days of pandemic and staying home we as Christians can invite people to “come and see” Jesus. What are some ways you can invite people to “come and see” Jesus: use your time, talent and treasure. Invite others to “come and see” Jesus when you talk about events in the news today. Remember to extend forgiveness and grace to others. Jesus reminds us we will see greater things than what we see today. Jesus is with us in midst of all that is taking place around us!!

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion**

Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word **together**. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith. God’s Word is a light to our path every day.

1. Which verse stands out to you in this passage today? Why?
2. Where is Nazareth?
3. How does Philip describe Jesus?(v.45) How does v.45 relate to Deu.18:18?
4. Nathanael says, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”( v.46).What are some examples today of objections people have with Christianity? Why do people reject following Christ?
5. What is said about the fig tree?(v.48). Be prepared to share other passages about a fig tree.
6. **Digging Deeper in the Word**: Philip encounters the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. How does the conversation begin in Act 8:30? And what does the Ethiopian Eunuch ask for and do in Acts 8:31?

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**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

Jesus calls each of us In different ways. When you tell others about Jesus, how do you say? How can you apply the calling of disciples in John 1:35-51 in your life today?

**Sharing Inspiration**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. We must find something to inspire us each day. In the midst of all that is taking place around us, we hold on to hope in Christ Jesus. Where do you find inspiration and hope these days? Is it a song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it helped inspire you? Share with the group or write in your prayer journal at home.

﻿**Put your Faith in Action:**  During 2021 we are *hopeful* and need all of us to be prayerful that we can safely reopen the church doors. This is God’s will for this time. We are God’s church wherever we are, Thank each of you as we continue as the distant church to give our tithes and offerings. This helps the church to continue to do ministry in the world. We ask that you, share encouraging words with others, pray and reach out ***We are the Church.*** Please reach out to one another, text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ*.*

**Evening Prayer:**

#### Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

***January 17 is Race Relations and Criminal Justice Sunday in Matthew 25 Churches. Our Church is a Matthew 25 Church. We pray in Jesus’ Name for Unity and Justice and remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work for peace and Justice in the work.* MLK Day January 18.**

**We also lift up prayer requests at this time, we lift up our joys and concerns before the Lord. Write down prayer requests joys and concerns so we lift these up during the upcoming week.**

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending: - Pastor Reid**

*May God be with you all until me meet again!!*

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! We will meet again Wednesday, **January 20 at 6pm.**

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid