

Women's Bible Study

John 1:35-2:25

1. In the passage we are studying, Jesus is called several names: can you name six? What does each name mean? Why does the gospel writer include all of these names?

2. One translation has rendered verse 47 as "a true son of Israel, in whom there is no 'Jacob'." Jesus then makes a reference to the vision or dream of Jacob (before he was "Israel"). Nathaniel would know this passage. Why do you think Jesus tells Nathaniel what he will see in the future? Be sure to remind yourself of Jacob's reaction to the vision, in Genesis 28:16-17.

3. Jesus' first public miracle had a profound effect on his followers (verse 11), which surely means it is not simply about supplying refreshments for a party. Can you suggest why Jesus would have picked this as his first public miracle? You might want to see Exodus 7:20, Isaiah 25:6, and Joel 2:24.

4. Jesus' claim in verse 19 is very important to the Jews' understanding of who Jesus was, and his claim is referred to 3 years later at his trial and crucifixion, and by Stephen's accusers (Matthew 26:60-61, Mark 15:29-30, Acts 6:14). What exactly is Jesus' claim? You might want to refer to Matthew 12:6, 39-40, and Revelation 21:22.

5. On the surface, Jesus' time in Jerusalem was successful, for "many people" believed in him because of the signs he was doing. Yet Jesus' reaction tells us he understands that this type of faith is not enough. Why do you believe in Jesus? How did you move from a faith based on signs, or positive events in your life, to a deeper, more authentic faith in times of trouble or suffering?