

that this Jesus he was talking about was from Nazareth. Nazareth apparently didn't have the best of reputations and so someone coming from Nazareth was immediately suspect. The cool thing was that Nathanael didn't let that get in the way of his taking Philip up on his invitation to come and see Jesus. Nathanael went with him and it didn't take long at all for Jesus to turn Nathanael 180 degrees! We get a glimpse of Jesus' divine power as He told Nathanael some things about him that there was really no way for Jesus to know. But notice how Jesus didn't just leave it as a sleight of hand magic trick to "wow" Nathanael into believing in Him. Essentially in verse 50, Jesus told Nathanael not to be "wowed" just because Jesus told him some things about himself. There would be far weightier matters that they were going to be engaging in, things that Nathanael would see and even do as a follower of Jesus. Friends, you need to hear that same message being spoken from Jesus to you today. Don't just be wowed by Jesus and some of the miraculous things He's done. Take to heart the love that He has for you, the lengths that He went to win you back, and all that He offers by way of forgiveness, encouragement, comfort, peace, relationship, hope, and life. Jesus didn't have "spectator sport" in mind when He came and did all that He did. He's wanting to engage you in The Story. Don't sit on the sidelines. Don't just be a skeptic. Let Jesus take hold of you and use you in some amazing ways – and believe that He can. And will... Come, follow Him!

#### **Saturday — Speak, O Lord**

I invite you to close this week of devotions by meditating on the powerful modern hymn, "Speak, O Lord," by Keith and Kristyn Getty. If you have the capability, here's a beautiful YouTube of it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRlUj8xkds>. If you don't have the ability to listen, here are the words to reflect on: 1) Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness, That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory. 2) Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility; Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity. Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority. Words of pow'r that can never fail— let their truth prevail over unbelief. 3) Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us— Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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This week's *Bring It Home* devotions were written by Pastor Glen Schlecht  
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# Bring It Home

*Devotions for  
the week of  
January 21, 2018*

## What Now?

Two parts this week – take on one or both!

1. Be intentional this week about listening to Jesus' invitation to you to follow Him. Pray about what specifically that can mean for your life.
2. And as you follow Him, who can you walk with – who can you invite to "come and see" as you journey through your life this week?

If you would like to receive daily *Bring It Home* devotions by email, please contact the church office: [churchoffice@immanuelloveland.org](mailto:churchoffice@immanuelloveland.org)

## **Monday — Come and See: A Real Message**

Throughout Jesus' very brief three year ministry, the message He came to bring was a message that had legs! We know that not everyone was accepting of Jesus or the message He came to bring but by and large, "the masses" with whom Jesus interacted and taught were pretty intrigued by what He had to say. It was a message that was relevant, practical, and meaningful. Jesus wasn't one to preach "pie in the sky" sorts of sermons or teach ivory tower ideas that couldn't be lived out or put to use. The approach Jesus took when He was walking on this earth is an approach I continue to strive for us at Immanuel to emulate. The message Jesus has put in our hearts is a message that we must put into real life, both for ourselves and for the people with whom we work, live, and play. It's a message that has to be shared beyond the four walls of our sanctuary in a worship service or a Sunday School classroom. It's a message all of us, from 3-year old preschoolers to middle- and high school youth to our older adults need to take to heart and put into life! There are people all around us, in our homes, at the gym where we work out, in our classrooms, at our workplaces, and in the places where we shop, who don't know Jesus and who need us to show them who He is. And how do we take His message to the streets? By the integrity and character with which we live our lives, the kindness and compassion we show to one another, the way we handle problems, mistakes, disappointments, and hardships that we encounter in our lives, by the attitude we demonstrate, by the words we speak, and by the message from the One who came to save us that points people back to Him – the power behind everything in our lives as Christians. Can you do that? I think you can! And what's the message we're here to share and the invitation we're here to offer – come and see! Come and see this Jesus who can change your life forever! Read John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-10, and John 1:29 for a glimpse at the core of what makes us who we are. Consider some of the ways in which you can live out this message throughout the week ahead.

## **Tuesday — Come and See: Opening Doors**

Read John 1:43-46. When Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus, Nathanael pushed back. But did you notice what Philip did? Did he argue back? Did he force the issue? Did he try to answer or counter Nathanael's question? Did he quote Old Testament scripture passages to convince him otherwise? Nope. He simply said, "Come and see." And as I read this story, I imagine Philip making that statement, that invitation with kind of a knowing smile on his face. Our calling as believers in Jesus is not to argue people into the faith or drag them to Jesus. We don't have to answer every critique or question that people may have of Jesus or the Bible or of God. We simply need to invite them to "come and see" – as we share the difference Jesus makes in our lives and as you tell your unique story of what Jesus means to you. Do you have a story about a time when doors have opened for you to invite, figuratively or literally, people to come and see Jesus? I'd love to hear it! Email me ([gschlecht@immanuelloveland.org](mailto:gschlecht@immanuelloveland.org)) or drop me a note. If you don't have a story like that, be praying for an opportunity that the Lord may open up for you to share your faith in Jesus in some simple but real way. Be attentive to opportunities that may be open to you through the rest of this week to extend that invitation for the people around you to "come and see" Jesus.

## **Wednesday — Come and See: But Not Alone!**

Read John 1:35-46 and take notice of the various people who are part of this reading. What did you notice about all the people and all the invitations? Did anything in particular stand out for you? What jumped off the page for me is that not one of those "would be" disciples followed Jesus alone. They either came to follow Him together, or one who heard the invitation from Jesus and didn't simply follow Him alone – they went and found someone else that they just HAD to tell about Jesus and invite them to come, too. That is such a critical piece of the Christian faith and something that we read from Genesis to the maps – following Jesus, believing in this God of the Scriptures, is never a solo venture. While nobody else can believe for me or have faith for me, my following of Jesus is never alone. We're in community, in relationships, worshiping together, studying together, inviting others to come and see Jesus through various events, stories, and the lives we lead. With whom are you in relationship – either walking together in your faith and/or walking together with to share your faith and to help them see Jesus for themselves? Look for those opportunities throughout the rest of this week to walk with someone else in this journey of faith and life. And, by the way, that's also one of Immanuel's Marks of Discipleship – that simple willingness to walk with someone else in this journey of faith. It's not to give answers or fix their life, but to be with them and to demonstrate the love and power of Jesus that He brings to life.

## **Thursday — Follow Me!**

Read John 1:43. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Don't just read on but take a moment right now to pause and think for a minute – what does it mean to follow Jesus? Here are a few of my thoughts on this... At its most basic it means to believe in Jesus. To believe that He is the Son of God, my Savior, who died and rose again for me – for forgiveness of my sins, for forgiveness of all the sin in the world, and to give life to all of us who were otherwise dead. I also believe it's living out that faith and letting it show through my life. With that comes being in relationship with others, both fellow believers as well as people who may not know Jesus. Living genuine, authentic lives as people whose lives have been changed because of the hope, the grace, and the life we have in Jesus. Following Jesus does not mean my life is perfect. You don't have to read much further in John's Gospel to discover that after the disciples took up Jesus' invitation to follow Him, they were FAR from perfect! They messed up, forgot the message, didn't listen to Him, fought over childish things, whined to Jesus, and at the end, denied and turned their backs on Him. But while a follower of Jesus isn't perfect, we take His gift of grace seriously – not lightly but seriously. We fight the temptations daily thrown our way. We ask for forgiveness from the Lord and from each other with genuineness and regularity. We live with hope. And these gifts we've been talking about – we share them and give them away to others. Following Jesus is amazing. Pray and ask for help in your following and continue to live and enjoy the journey.

## **Friday — From Nazareth??!**

Read John 1:45-51. Have you ever felt like or been like Nathanael? Nathanael was a bit of a skeptic and that came through loud and clear when Philip came and told him about Jesus. It wasn't bad until Philip said