

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS
Mark 1:12, 13; John 1: 35-51

As soon as Jesus had been baptized by John in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by Satan. In all this time the Lord Jesus never sinned, but was completely obedient to God the Father. While the Lord endured this great trial for us, the angels ministered to him.

After the temptation Jesus was seen walking by John, who said, "Behold the Lamb of God." There were two disciples standing near John and they heard what he said, so they followed Jesus. Jesus turned to them and said, "What are you looking for?"

They answered, "Rabbi, (which is to say Master,) where do you live?"

"Come and see," said Jesus.

The two disciples followed Jesus to where he was staying and stayed with him for that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. After he left Jesus, Andrew went to find his brother Peter and told him, "We have found the Messiah." Then Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.

When Jesus saw Peter he said, "You are Simon the son of Jona: You will be called Cephas, which means a stone."

The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

Philip was from the city of Bethsaida, the same city that Andrew and Peter came from.

Philip went to find his friend Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Nathanael answered Philip, "Can any good come from Nazareth?"

Many people in Israel thought that the people of Nazareth were not as good as they were.

Philip answered his friend's question, not by arguing, but by simply saying, "Come and see!"

When the Lord Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said, "Look, a true Israelite, who is completely honest!"

Nathanael was amazed at the words of Jesus and said, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered Nathanael and said, "Before Philip called you, when you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you."

Now Nathanael's whole idea of Jesus changed. He said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel."

Jesus said, "Do you believe in me because I said I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! Truly, truly, I say to you. After this you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

In these verses we begin to meet some of Jesus' disciples. These people were looking for and expecting the Messiah. They really believed God's promise that some day the Lamb of God would come to take away their sins. When John pointed Jesus out, Andrew was ready to follow, but he wasn't content to keep the good news to himself. As soon as he felt sure that Jesus was Messiah, Andrew went and told his brother. He didn't keep quiet fearing that maybe Peter would laugh at him. He knew that the Messiah's coming was too important to be afraid to share.

Philip, like Andrew, couldn't wait to share the happy news of the Messiah with his friend Nathanael. Even though I'm sure that Philip knew his friend would find it hard to believe, Philip risked his reputation and brought Nathanael the good news.

Nathanael was a skeptic, not that easy to convince of anything, but when he met the Lord Jesus, his heart was opened to the truth.

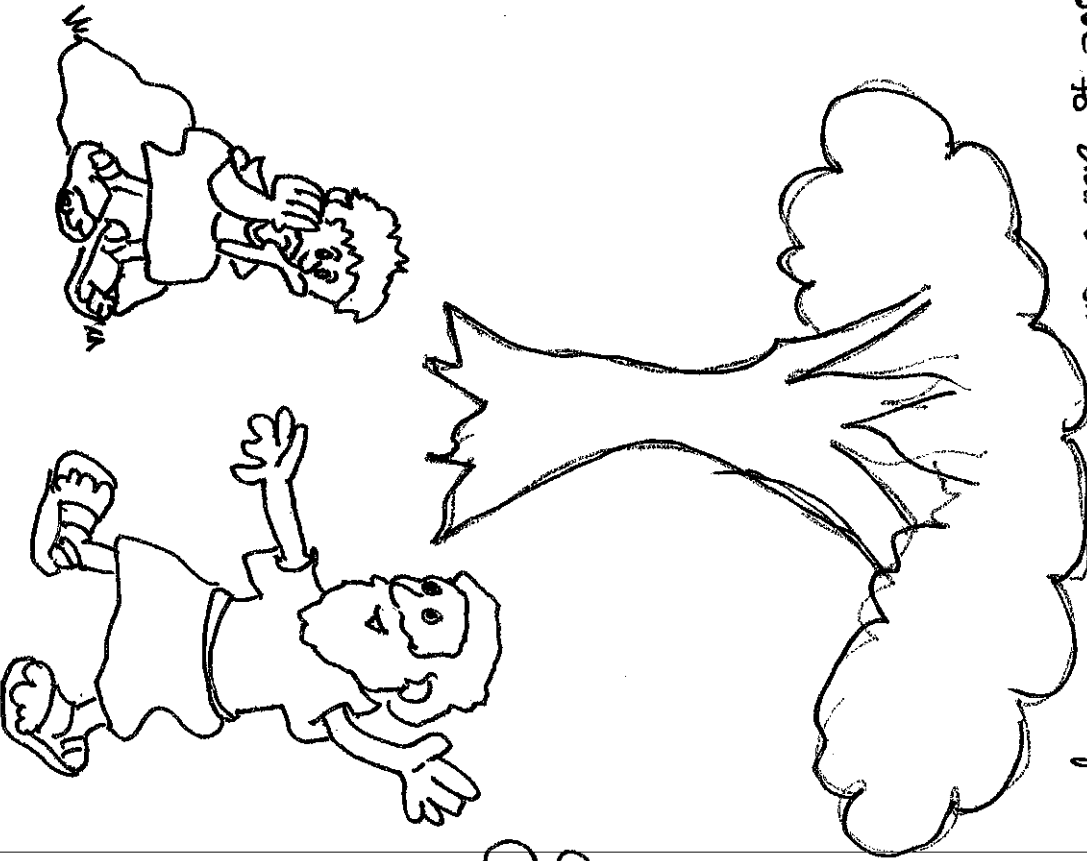
God calls people with many different kinds of personalities. He chooses each one for his own purpose, and no person is too difficult for God to reach. It is only our job to be willing to bring the witness as Andrew and Philip did. It is God's work to change the hearts of those he calls to believe in himself.

PRINCIPLE: Each believer is to share the good news with those who God brings into their lives.

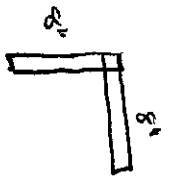
LEARN: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

1. Color Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael, also fig tree.
2. Cut them out and paste in appropriate spot on background.
3. If you wish to make Andrew stand out from picture - cut to strips of tearing paper 8" x 1/2" glue & ends as shown - fold back & forth evenly like an accordion - you will get 3 small accordion squares - glue on back of Andrew's Peter.
4. apply to dotted sheets on the bottom of squares



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 glue & ends as shown - fold back & forth
 evenly like an accordion - you will get
 3 small accordion squares - glue on back
 of Andrew's Peter.



Center of
 square in
 Andrew's
 middle of
 Peter's
 feet

Center square
 in middle of
 those men

Center of
 square in
 middle of
 Peter's head

