

From the Jordan to Jerusalem:
The Journey of Faith
John 1.19-2.25

John's story of Jesus' ministry opens with John the Baptist at the Jordan River, where his introduction of Jesus sets in motion a chain-reaction of 'faith statements' which illuminate a 'journey of faith' to guide us today, a faith that grows ever deeper and spreads ever wider.

- “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (1.29, 36)
Facing the problem of sin
- “We have found the Messiah!” (1.41)
The King has come!
- “Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (1.45)
The promised one has become flesh
- “You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!” (1.49)
A 'statement of faith' for all time!
- His disciples believed in Him. (2.11)
Walking with Jesus, deepening your faith
- His disciples believed the Scripture and Jesus' words (2.22)
Growing strong through faith in God's Word
- Many believed in His name (2.23)
Infecting the world with the news of the Savior



1. When John the Baptist “introduced” Jesus to the world of his day, he referred to Him as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (1.29). Not only did he *not* avoid the subject of sin, he put it ‘front and center’! Too often, the subject of sin is considered passé in churches today. Why do you think this is so? What effect does it have on our message to the world? Some say that if we talked less about sin we’d reach the world. What do you think?
2. Andrew told his brother Simon they had found “the Messiah;” John adds that this meant “Christ” (1.41). What did “the Messiah” mean in a Jewish context? Both words mean “anointed one;” anointed to be *what*? When Philip tells Nathanael that they “have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote” (1.45), what does this indicate about Jesus? How does this revelation about who Jesus is mesh with John the Baptist calling Him “the Lamb of God”?
3. At the moment Nathanael said to Jesus, “You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!” (1.49), what did this declaration of faith result in him receiving? How do you know this? Nathaniel a man of genuine faith (Jesus called him “an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit”, 1.47); why did he say these two things about Jesus together? Isaiah combined them eight centuries before (Isa. 9.6-7)!
4. Faith is not a static thing: It can grow stronger or weaker, depending on how it is nurtured. John tells us that the disciples with Jesus at the wedding in Cana “believed in Him” (2.11) after He turned water into wine. Their faith was later strengthened as they remembered that He foretold His resurrection (2.22). What has strengthened or weakened your faith in recent days? Can we be ‘with Jesus’ like they were?
5. The testimony of John led Andrew to faith; Andrew brought Simon his brother; Philip told Nathaniel; their faith grew stronger by being with Jesus...and then it overflowed as “many believed in His name” (2.23). The ‘journey of faith’ was never supposed to stop with us! It is good news to spread around! Has your ‘journey of faith’ gotten bogged down? Who can you tell about Jesus today?