

# WHAT DO YOU WANT?

*John 1:29-42*

**T**oday a white flag appeared on the strip of grass between our sidewalk and the street. It marks where the city plans to plant a tree. The thing is, we opted out of the tree-planting program. Two phone calls and an email to let the city know, and we still got the white flag. We are all for trees and tree planting, but our front yard is already too shady, with a large maple overshadowing our flowers and shrubs. We wish the city had asked us “What do you want?” or in this case “What do you *not* want?”

When God incarnate asks “What do you want?” the issues are more serious than whether we want a tree planted in the front yard. The question forces us to examine our deepest desires.

**Group Discussion.** Consider the question “What do you want out of life?” How would you have answered that question ten years ago? How has your answer changed since then (if it has)?

**Personal Reflection.** To what extent do you feel you have received what you want out of life?

This study’s Scripture passage has no parallel in the other three Gospels. It reveals that the brothers Andrew and Simon Peter had already met Jesus before he specifically called them to be his disciples. It also shows that Andrew was already a disciple of John the Baptist. Andrew’s companion here is not named; he could be the apostle John who avoids naming himself throughout the Gospel. Andrew lost no time in introducing Peter to Jesus. The two brothers must have continued their fishing business together until they decisively left their nets to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish (Mark 1:16-18). *Read John 1:29-42.*

1. Trace the main events of this passage.
2. Verse 36 tells us that Jesus was not walking toward John and the two disciples, but passing by them—perhaps at some distance. What might we conclude about the two disciples from the fact that they left John standing there and followed Jesus?
3. When Jesus turned around and saw them, do you think they stopped or started walking faster toward him? Why?
4. The first recorded words of Jesus in John's Gospel are his question in verse 38. Does his question strike you as unexpected, a challenge, a natural question, or something else? Why?
5. What possible answers might these disciples have given to Jesus' question?

6. Although the two disciples didn't answer directly, how does their response serve as a form of answer (vv. 38-39)?

7. When non-Christians begin to show interest in Christ, what are some things they may be looking for?

8. In verses 39-42, what evidence do you see that Andrew and the other person found—or didn't find—what they were looking for?

9. What was the immediate result of Andrew's encounter with Jesus (vv. 41-42)?

10. Why do you think Andrew was so definite about Jesus' identity as the Messiah (v. 41)?

11. If right now Jesus asked you “What do you want?” or “What are you looking for?” would you be comfortable or uncomfortable? Explain.

12. How does your daily life reflect what you want most?

13. How would you like to revise what you want most?



*Pray that you will want what Christ wants for yourself and for others.*

#### NOW OR LATER

Study Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:22-34 in which Jesus emphasizes seeking the kingdom of God above anything else. These familiar passages may be hard to read with fresh eyes. Try to read them in light of the contrast between what we consider most important and what Jesus considers most important.

Study Psalm 16 in which David rejoices in what the Lord has provided and rejects other avenues of gain.

Study Philippians 3:7-11 and 4:10-20 in which Paul expresses ready acceptance of what he has given up for Christ and contentment with what Christ has provided.