

WOMEN OF WITNESS

TIPS TO BETTER RELATIONSHIPS



Helping Her Encounter Jesus

By Lynn Cowell

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,’ Jesus answered.” John 1:48 (CSB)

I asked a new friend to come with me to church. When she said yes, I was thrilled! She hadn’t yet begun a relationship with Jesus. She had questions, and we’d discussed them together. But this was an opportunity for her to encounter Jesus on her own.

Like me, you may have a loved one who you desperately want to meet and know Jesus. Maybe this person doesn’t need more information but instead more exposure to God — to experience Jesus for themselves.

In John 1, Philip invited his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus. Nathanael was skeptical; he doubted this man was the Messiah. Yet he still agreed to go see Jesus. That reluctant “yes” was the beginning of Nathanael’s beautiful encounter with the Savior.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He greeted him in a way that revealed Jesus already knew him — even though they had never met before in person. Jesus’ words must have stunned Nathanael:

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,’ Jesus answered” (John 1:48).

Though Nathanael had yet to see a miracle or any other physical evidence that Jesus was the Messiah, he became convinced after this encounter. ***“Rabbi,’ Nathanael replied, ‘You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!’” (John 1:49, CSB).*** Nathanael’s experience with Jesus made a way for him to believe in Jesus.

Scripture records other testimonies like this as well: Paul believed Jesus was the Son of God after Christ appeared to him in a blinding encounter (Acts 9). Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon also seemingly believed in God after being humbled by His miraculous signs (Daniel 4).

An encounter with the Savior may be just what your loved one needs to accept the Savior.



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So, like Philip, let's extend invitations to our loved ones and create atmospheres for encountering Jesus. Going to dinner or coffee with friends who are walking with Jesus may allow an unbeliever to see the love, joy, and peace they crave. An opportunity to come to your home can create space for longer conversations. Perhaps volunteering together could give someone the chance to see Jesus' love in action. Inviting someone to a worship service may open the door for them to experience His presence.

Along with your prayers, the Holy Spirit can use many different means to draw your loved one closer to Jesus. Ask the Lord how He might use you to create space for your friend to encounter Him. You might be surprised how simple it can be to help someone on their journey to meet Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, I pray now for my loved ones who need to experience and believe in You. Thank You for Your willingness to meet them just as You did Nathanael. Thank You for Your willingness and desire to draw all people to Yourself in whatever way You choose! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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