

## Word notes

### Encounters with Jesus – The sceptical student



NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting people with God  
within authentic community  
where all are welcome.*

#### Read John 1 v 43-52

'The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man.'" John 1:43-51

Nathanael was an intellectual snob, he is convinced that nothing good could come from Nazareth. Even though we may not roll our eyes at Christianity as a whole, there may be aspects of our faith or what God asks us to do or people we are asked to work with, which we are dismissive about.

- Dismissiveness kills creativity and problem solving
- Christianity is the source of the core values that we have in society today

#### Discussion

Discuss as a group the core values we hold in society (e.g. human rights, care for the poor) and how these are actually based in the Christian faith.

Think back to before you became a Christian, what big questions did you have about your life and purpose?

How does Jesus treat Nathanael? What does this tell us about Jesus character and what was the impact on Nathanael?

Read Genesis 28: 10-22, how does this link with what Jesus says to Nathanael. Discuss the impact that this had on Nathanael. How should this impact our faith, are we looking big enough or just making do?

#### Challenge

Are we guilty of dismissing what God is trying to say to us without properly thinking about it?

Are there some areas of our lives where we are looking in the wrong places for the answers?

Do we have friends that we need to invite to meet Jesus? Philip was excited about meeting Jesus and didn't want his friend missing out, are we that excited about our faith?

Share your thoughts and pray for one another