

SESSION 7

ANDREW: ACTIVE WITNESS



*What's the best sales pitch
you've heard?*

QUESTION #1

#BSFLsecondnature

Christ-centered living chooses invitation, not indifference.

THE PASSAGES

John 1:35-42; 12:20-26

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Buying a car is an uncomfortable experience for a lot of us. We might feel the pressure of walking around the sales lot, test driving cars, and then sitting down with a salesperson who goes back and forth to check with the sales manager on the finer points of negotiation.

“What will it take to put you behind that wheel today?” A lot of the discomfort comes in knowing that the salesperson, no matter how good he may be at small talk, has only one goal in mind: close the deal.

Many Christians view evangelism in the same way—except they are the salespeople. They think they must do everything they can to move a person from point A to point B, closing the “faith deal” with a prayer.

Andrew clearly stood against this philosophy. Virtually every time we see him in the Gospels, he is introducing someone to Jesus. Andrew knew that the true power of evangelism comes not with persuasive arguments from us, but simply in providing an introduction to Jesus. Jesus is more than capable of doing the rest.

John 1:35-42

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

The Book of John begins as a testimony to the divinity of Jesus. While the Books of Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' family histories, John opened His Gospel from the very beginning, showing that Jesus is God—and He has been for all eternity. Throughout John's gospel, he shows the same truth again and again: Jesus is God who is also the Savior of the World.

In the first chapter, we meet John the Baptist, an earthly relative of Jesus, who also was an out-of-the-ordinary preacher preparing the way for God's chosen One. But while we might know this chosen One is Jesus, the people in John's gospel only came to realize this in time. This was the case with Andrew.

The first time we meet Andrew, he was following John the Baptist. He was one of two disciples who were present when John testified that Jesus was "the Lamb of God." That statement was

enough for Andrew and his companion (who was probably John, the one who wrote this Gospel). Although they had been followers of John the Baptist, they went with Jesus to hear what He was teaching. After these two disciples spent several hours with Jesus, Andrew emerged with a life-changing confession: “We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”

How did someone introduce you to Jesus?

QUESTION #2

Let’s not miss the gravity of this statement. Generations had passed, all waiting on the Chosen One from God—the Messiah. The people had come to believe that the Messiah would be a political leader whom God would raise up to throw off the Roman oppression under which the people had been living. Like Moses, whom God had used to deliver the people from their servitude in Egypt, the Messiah would deliver the Jews from Rome and re-establish Israel as a national power. At this point, Andrew most likely had no idea that he wasn’t grasping God’s true intentions. The Messiah would not deliver the people in a political way; He would do something far better. Rather than merely saving the people from Rome, He would save the people from sin and death. And rather than being merely the King of Israel, He is the King of all kings.

DIGGING DEEPER



LAMB OF GOD

This is the title specifically bestowed upon the Lord Jesus by John the Baptist. It signifies that we find in Christ the fulfillment of the promise that

God would provide a sacrifice who would both bear the curse of sin and provide salvation for the world (Isaiah 53).

“Temptation of Jesus,” in *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, gen. eds. Chad Brand, Charles Draper, Archie England (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1007.

Nevertheless, the first thing Andrew did when he knew he had found Jesus was to go to his brother Simon and invite him to come and see Jesus also. In fact, almost every time we see Andrew in the Gospels, he was inviting other people to see Jesus.

Andrew offered no clever pitch, just a simple invitation for Simon to come and encounter Jesus for himself. We see a sweet kind of freedom in Andrew's actions. In order for us to feel that same freedom of invitation, two things must be true about us:

1. **We must sincerely love those closest to us.** If we would invite the people closest to us to Jesus we must truly love them. This love goes beyond emotion; it is the genuine, heartfelt desire for someone's good. Therefore, regarding those relationships, we should ask: What is truly the best thing for these individuals? Without exception, the best thing is Jesus. People might not know it; they might not even like it. But if we truly love those closest to us, then we are responsible to invite them to encounter the One who is for their eternal good.
2. **We must believe Jesus is truly compelling.** Sometimes we hesitate to talk about Jesus to those closest to us. Other times, we feel the pressure to make sure we have just the right presentation when we do talk to them. But Andrew felt neither of these things. He simply invited Peter to encounter Jesus for himself. Based on his own encounter with Jesus, Andrew was convinced that Jesus was truly compelling on His own. He had no need for a clever presentation or sales job; he only needed to make an introduction; then Peter would see for himself.

What considerations do we take into account when telling a family member about Jesus?

QUESTION #3

John 12:20-22

20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

Through His miraculous signs and unique authoritative teaching, Jesus gained a following. The crowds grew as people from all over the region wanted to hear, see, and encounter this new rabbi.

When we come to John 12, it was the week of Passover. During this festival, Jewish people from all over the known world gathered in Jerusalem. Among them were also God-fearing Gentiles who had come to worship. We don't know if they had heard of Jesus before, but they had now—and like many others, they wanted to see Jesus.

We aren't told why these people approached Philip with their request; perhaps it was because *Philip* was a Greek name, and they thought he would be more approachable. But it is interesting that when they approached Philip, he went and found Andrew. Maybe all the disciples had become accustomed to Andrew's introductions. They knew Andrew was never shy about introducing new people to Jesus, and here was another chance for him to do so. Andrew, faithful to his character, introduced these people to Jesus.

Like Andrew, we should be convinced in faith that Jesus is happy to meet anyone who is genuinely seeking to encounter Him. Because of this, we always should take the opportunity to make that introduction, especially when the people seeking Jesus have genuine questions.

Many of us have a problem, though. We are rarely in places where we come into contact with people who have questions—people in whom the Spirit of God might be working. We have the natural inclination to be drawn inward. We find people we like, restaurants we like, and roads we like—and that's where we tend to stay. It is

uncomfortable for us to branch out, once we've established a routine of familiarity. Consequently, our lives are filled to the brim with people who think, look, act, and believe just like us. With our lives so full of people just like us, we may never have the opportunity to meet people who might have questions about life and faith—questions only Jesus can answer.

We must intentionally fight against that trend for the sake of the gospel. We must intentionally put ourselves in situations where we know we will encounter people who are not Christians.

- ▶ Talk with your neighbors on a walk instead of being silent.
- ▶ Talk to the person next to you at the gym instead of using headphones.
- ▶ Start a conversation with other parents at sporting events.

These are simple choices we make, but each one is driven by faith. We take these active steps because we believe:

- ▶ God is constantly at work in us and throughout the world.
- ▶ The gospel is the only hope for every man and woman, boy and girl.
- ▶ We are God's chosen means to spread His good news.

If these truths are important to us, then every day is filled with opportunities.

What questions might a nonbeliever have about Christ?

QUESTION #4

John 12:23-26

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

From the text, it doesn't appear that Jesus exchanged a lot of pleasantries and greetings with the people. Jesus didn't ask them why they came to Him or what questions they had. He didn't inquire about their social positions, their families, or their occupations. But He did provide clarity about what it means to follow Him.

This is an important point for us today. When we invite others to Jesus, and we think our chief aim is to "close the deal," we might be tempted to soften the reality of what it looks like to follow Jesus. But we must be faithful to describe the Christian experience as Jesus did, encouraging potential disciples to count the cost.

- ▶ **Following Jesus is a pathway of self-denial.** In these verses, Jesus described His own death as a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, but then produces a large crop. If we would follow Jesus and invite others to do the same, we must recognize that He calls us to the same life of self-denial. In Jesus' words, we must hate our lives in this world. That doesn't mean to go through life with a depressed countenance all the time. But it does mean we count everything else in life as a loss compared to the greatness of knowing and following Jesus (Phil. 3:8). As we fix our faith, vision, and will on following Christ, the things of this world begin to fall away in value.
- ▶ **Following Jesus is the pathway to life.** True enough, we will lose things as we follow Jesus. We can't run hard after Jesus while dragging along the things of the world. Following Him will cost us relationships, ambitions, and possessions. But everything we have lost pales in comparison to what we have gained in Jesus: true life, true joy, and true satisfaction.

▶ **Following Jesus is the pathway to being with Jesus.** Why does following Jesus lead to life? Because following Jesus is the pathway to being with Jesus. When we follow Him, we can know with certainty that where He is we also will be. But this also forces us to reckon with the fact that there is no such thing as a casual relationship with Jesus. He is not interested in “hanging out,” being our buddy, or being an acquaintance. Jesus is the Lord of all, nothing less.

What would you tell someone about the challenges and benefits of following Christ?

QUESTION #5

BE AN ACTIVE WITNESS

Write out the names of three people you know are unsaved:

.....
.....
.....

Reflecting on Andrew’s story, what is one way you could share Christ with each of these persons this week:

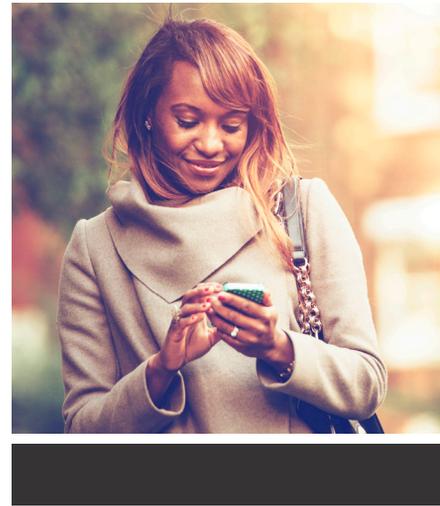
.....
.....
.....

LIVE IT OUT

What steps can you take to be like Andrew this week? Consider the following applications:

- ▶ **Say thanks.** Who introduced you to Jesus? Call or write and express your gratitude to the person.
- ▶ **Make time.** In your current schedule, what opportunities do you have to interact with people who are not Christians? If none, re-evaluate how you can make room for those introductions.
- ▶ **Make the introduction.** Are you confident enough in Jesus to introduce someone else to Him? Think of one specific person who needs that introduction, and resolve to make it when you see the person this week.

Andrew, the active witness, shows us that evangelism is nothing like selling cars. Instead, simply inviting others to see Jesus should be second nature to those who deeply love and treasure Christ.



Share with others how you will live out this study: [#BSFLsecondnature](#)