

The Gathering of Disciples

based on John 1:43–51

By Marge Nelson

*Actors needed: Narrator, Jesus, John the Baptist, Philip, Andrew, Simon Peter, Nathanael
John the Baptist and two disciples, Andrew and Philip, stand at the front near the piano. Jesus comes from that side, walks across in front of these three, and continues slowly to the middle of the front.*

John the Baptist: (*pointing*) “Look, there is the Lamb of God!”
(*The two disciples look, then leave to follow Jesus.*)

Jesus: (*turning toward them*) “What are you looking for?”

Andrew: “Rabbi, where are you staying?”

Jesus: “Come and see.” (*motions for them to follow*)

(*As the narrator reads, they walk across the front, turn right, go up the steps, come out on the platform and stop on that side. Andrew crosses the platform to the opposite side where Peter is standing.*)

Narrator: They followed him, saw where he was staying, and remained with him that day. About four o’clock in the afternoon, one of them, Andrew went to look for his brother, Simon Peter.

Andrew: “Simon! We have found the Messiah.”

Simon: “Where is he?”

Andrew: “Come and see.” (*The two cross the stage to Jesus.*)

Narrator: Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.

Jesus: “You are Simon, the fisherman, but I will call you Peter.”

Peter: “Where are you going?”

Jesus: “Come and see.”

(*They go across the stage. Near the center is Philip.*)

Narrator: Simon and Andrew followed Jesus. The next day near Galilee, Jesus stopped when he saw Philip.

Jesus: “Follow me.”

Phillip: “Where are we going?”

Jesus: “Come and see.”

(*All freeze on stage except Philip, who goes down the steps to the right where Nathanael is standing.*)

Narrator: Philip was from Bethsaida, the city where Andrew and Peter lived. When they got there, Philip went to find Nathanael.

Phillip: Nathanael! We have found him—the Messiah—the one Moses and the prophets wrote about!”

Nathanael: “Where is he? Who is he?”

Phillip: “It is Jesus, the son of Joseph the carpenter, from Nazareth.”

Nathanael: “Nazareth? That little village? How can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Phillip: (*smiling*) “Come and see.” (*Phillip and Nathanael go up the steps toward the group in the center.*)

Narrator: The two men hurried to find Jesus. When they were close and Jesus saw Nathanael, he spoke:

Jesus: “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no dishonesty!”

Nathanael: “Why do you say that? Where did you come to know me?”

Jesus: “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Nathanael: (*amazed*) “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus: “Do you believe this because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?”

Nathanael: (*nodding*) “Yes, Lord.”

Jesus: “You will see greater things than these.”

Nathanael: “How? Where?”

Jesus: “Come and see.”

(Jesus goes down the steps and up the center aisle. One by one the disciples follow.)