

- g) Later, with Philip, Andrew introduces some Greeks to Jesus in **12:20-22**. The Greeks who wanted to see Jesus were no Jews. Whilst Philip was unsure what to do, Andrew does not hesitate to go straight to Jesus. He is one of the first to understand that Jesus is the universal answer to man's need.

### QUESTION 5

- a) This is a crucial moment for both these disciples; and indeed, Andrew's brother Simon (as indicated in verse 42).
- b) Although it is Andrew who declares that they have found the Messiah, John is careful to record the word 'we'.
- c) As followers of John the Baptist, we have seen that John and Andrew were expecting the imminent arrival of the Messiah, or Christ (see **verses 20-27**).
- d) All these early disciples still have much to learn about what Messiahship means. They will struggle with their understanding of what Jesus was going to do; and will have mixed expectations right up to the ascension (see **Acts 1:6**).
- e) We also see in verse 41 that John reveals the universal nature of the coming of Jesus. He is writing to both Jews and Gentiles and therefore deliberately adds the explanation that the Hebrew Messiah was the same word in the Greek Christ; meaning God's anointed King.

### QUESTION 6

- Desiring to be with Jesus and learn from him (**verses 38-39**).
- Wanting others to know that we have found Jesus (**verse 41**).
- Being humble and willing for others to play a more prominent role; for the sake of the gospel (in a way we see both John and Andrew submitting to this in our passage).

## GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 1

### QUESTION 1

- a) There are a number of times in the book where John substitutes his own name for a description:
- b) **The Sons of Zebedee** – 21:2; **The disciple whom Jesus loved** – 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20,24; **The other disciple** – 18:16; 20:2,3,4,8; **He who saw it** – 19:35; **Another disciple** – 18:15-16.
- c) Considering his general approach, it is most likely that he is the 'other' disciple here.
- d) This is clearly an eyewitness account. It is also interesting that in verse 39 John refers to the time. Evidently this was such a memorable occasion that he remembered the exact hour that he met Jesus.
- e) John's gospel account was written to persuade people to believe in Jesus. His purpose is set out in **John 20:30-31**. John uses the word 'believe' (or derivatives of it) some 98 times in his gospel.
- f) It is also clear from the very beginning of the book that the true identity of Jesus as the part of the Trinity (or eternal divine family) is at the forefront of his writing.
- g) The famous 'I am' statements that are unique to John's record are a reference to the self-revelation of God to Moses back in **Exodus 3:14**.
- h) John writes to counter the growing rejection of Jesus as the Son of God.

## QUESTION 2

- a) There is a clear recognition among these two men when John the Baptist mentions the Lamb of God.
- b) This is the culmination of three day's events (see **verses 19, 29 & 35**).
- c) On the first day there had been a deputation of religious leaders (**John 1:19-28**) and John the Baptist had declared that he was not the Christ. He had added in **John 1:26** "*but among you stands one you do not know...*"
- d) On day two, as Jesus approaches, John the Baptist identifies Him as "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" (1:29).
- e) That would have reminded these two men of the sacrifices in the Old Testament e.g. Abraham's sacrifice instead of Isaac (Genesis 22); the Passover Lamb sacrifices so that Israel might be set free from slavery (Exodus 12); and the reference to lamb in Isaiah 53 that would bear the punishment for sinners.
- f) Whatever the association they may have made; the lambs were seen as sacrifices to deliver people and set them free from sin.
- g) There was no mistaking what John the Baptist was saying here. And he had finished by declaring unequivocally that "*I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God*" (verse 34).
- h) This is another strong statement by our writer John as he sets out to show Jesus' true identity.
- i) It makes this encounter on day three a particularly important one for John in his determination to state the truth of the divinity of Christ.

## QUESTION 3

- a) This is not meant as an unfriendly question which is intended to put them off.
- b) Jesus is encouraging them to verbalise what they want from Him.
- c) This is a continuing reference to the salvation that was associated with Him being the Lamb of God.

- d) Following Jesus is about wanting Him to forgive sin and give peace.
- e) Later in John 6:26 we are told that there were people who followed Jesus, but for the wrong thing: "*Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves'*".
- f) John and Andrew's response in **verses 38b-39** doesn't directly answer the question. It does show that they want to be with Jesus and learn from Him

## QUESTION 4

- a) John is the writer but his humility shines through. He fades out of the story and it becomes all about the story of Andrew and his brother Simon Peter.
- b) If it were not for John, we would learn little about Andrew. As it happens, he is an important part of the growing work of declaring who Jesus is.
- c) Andrew is not one of Jesus' inner circles (i.e. Peter, James & John). But he immediately recognizes who Jesus is; even if he might not fully understand what it means at this stage.
- d) The first thing he does is to want to tell others. He tells his brother Simon Peter.
- e) Notice in **verse 41** and in **6:8** that John describes him as 'Simon Peter's brother'; not the other way around. Peter became the prominent brother with Andrew fading into the background.
- f) That's not to say he didn't do anything. John tells us that he shows faith in Jesus at the Feeding of the 5000 in chapter **6:9**. Although he sounds defeatist, he is the one who introduces this information about the loaves and fishes to Jesus. It shows Andrew's optimistic heart to think that Jesus could use what is given over to Him.