

Group Reflection Questions

1. Of the statistics presented by Pastor Mark, were there any that were surprising to you?
2. What do you know about the gospel of John? Do you know any traits that make it different from the other gospels?
3. Do you see Christianity more as a movement or as an institution? Why?
4. In verse 39 Jesus says: “Come and you will see.” What have you *seen* as you followed Jesus?
5. What are the easy elements of following Jesus for you? What are the hard elements?

Come and See **John 1:35-50**

Over the last 40 years the church has been experiencing dramatic changes. Church attendance has dropped. Younger generations are going to church less. And the center of Christianity is moving from North America and Europe to Africa, South America, and Asia.

At the same time, the younger generations that are coming to church are showing signs of amazing commitment to their faith. The church is growing—particularly in countries where faith is persecuted. And there are American churches that are experiencing renewal and growth. God is moving in our world in ways that sometimes feel unfamiliar.

John writes his gospel in a time when the church was facing both persecution and amazing growth across the Roman World. In this last of the four gospels to be written John emphasizes the theme of “sending” as he remembers the words of Jesus to him and the other disciples. In this passage Jesus begins a movement as he calls out “follow me.”