

# PARENT GUIDE

## Lesson 5.2: Nathanael, James, John

JOURNEY

IDENTITY

### ► SCRIPTURE READING

- » John 1:45–51
- » John 1:35–39; 2:11; 21:24–25;  
1 John 1:1–4
- » Matthew 17:1–8; 26:36–46; Mark 5:36–43;  
9:2–8; 14:32–42; Luke 8:51; Acts 12:1–2
- » Mark 3:14–19; John 11:6–16; 14:5;  
20:24–25, 28

### SUMMARY:

This week we studied the lives of four disciples: Nathanael, John, James and Thomas. While their life stories vary, the common denominator is their desire to follow Jesus and learn more about Him. Each grew in faith as a result of walking and talking with the Lord, witnessing His miracles and learning from His teaching. Because they followed Jesus, God gave them a new identity and called them children of the living God. They used that identity as a witness to the watching world, telling others about Jesus and inviting them to follow His ways.

Once we experience life with Jesus, nothing on Earth compares. We need Jesus to survive spiritually. The more we learn about Him, the more our eyes open to the truth of God's Word. Attending church, studying the Bible and talking with Christian mentors are great ways to learn more about Christ and strengthen our faith in Him. Learning invites belief, and Jesus invites us to believe in Him.

### ► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

- » 1 John 1:3\*
- » Matthew 5:16
- » Hebrews 11:4

### ► IDENTITY INSIGHT

I am a child of the living God. Jesus knows everything about me — both my faith and my failures — and still calls me friend.

### ► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

**ISRAEL:** God's chosen people, descendants of Jacob (Genesis 49:2, 16, 28); Israel is the name God assigned to Jacob and his descendants after their encounter at Peniel (Genesis 32:27–30).

**FELLOWSHIP:** to share what is held in common; we get our words communion and community from the biblical word *koinonia*.

**MARTYR:** a person who dies for the sake of their faith

**DOUBTING THOMAS:** a phrase regarding Thomas's belief in the resurrection (John 20:26–29). Although he doubted, Thomas was a faithful disciple and apostle in the Gospels and Church history.