

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON EARTH?

### What was Jesus doing on earth?

- Several people in this passage give a variety of names for or to Jesus. What names do they give him and what do those names tell us about what Jesus was doing on earth?
- In v.51 Jesus quotes from Genesis 28:12 in order to declare what he was doing on earth. He names himself to be the ladder connecting earth and heaven. Jesus is Bethel — the House of God — the place where that connection is made and is sustained. Use this in prayer.

### John the Baptist > Andrew — John 1:35-40

- John the Baptist names Jesus ‘the Lamb of God’? To whom does he announce this?
- After hearing this, they followed Jesus. What did their following look like?
- How does this turn of events reveal what John the Baptist was on earth for?  
(For answers read back in John 1 to see it all set out — e.g. vv.6-8, 15, 20, 23, 30-31, etc.)  
John was on earth to attach people to Jesus — not to attach people to himself.  
What remarkable attitude does that reveal?
- “If you knew what God had in mind for you, you would never be jealous of anyone else.” Discuss

### Andrew > Simon — John 1:40-42

- What was the first thing Andrew did?
- How did he name Jesus to his brother?
- Read John 6:8-9 and 12:20-22. Do you see a pattern? What does this reveal about what the Apostle Andrew was on earth for?
- “It was Andrew’s great joy to bring others to Jesus. He stands out as the man whose one desire was to share the glory. He is the man with the missionary heart. Having himself found the friendship of Jesus, he spent all his life in introducing others to that friendship. Andrew is our great example in that he could not keep Jesus to himself.” William Barclay  
Is there anyone like Andrew in this Connect Group or in Beacon?
- In verses 38, 41 and 42 the Gospel writer, John, explains a Hebrew name to any Greek readers. Why would he do this? And how can we imitate this good practice in our own day?

### Philip > Nathanael (the disciple that Matthew, Mark and Luke call Bartholomew) — John 1:40-42

- How does Philip name Jesus to Nathanael? How does Nathanael react? Is that negative or positive?
- Jesus was given insight into Nathanael’s whereabouts and thoughts. Why do we suppose he did not challenge Nathanael about his attitudes to Nazarenes, but rather focused on a good quality?
- Jesus liked to name to people what they were on earth for — and sometimes even to rename them (v.42). How would you label this outreach method? How does it work?
- “Honour is the choice to magnify another person’s worth above their weakness. It attracts the glory of God.” Alan Scott. “A friend sees the worst in us and still enjoys the view.” “When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.” Discuss.