



Good News for families

January 2021

Come and See!

If you spend enough time with your children or grandchildren, you'll hear it: "Come and see!" Children are always very adamant about it. You have to come and see. Not later. Right now. Come and see my latest puzzle I put together. Come and see the picture I just drew. Come and see how I cleaned up the whole playroom by myself, without being asked! (Okay, perhaps that's wishful thinking.)

But maybe these children are onto something here. Maybe they're echoing Philip when he encourages Nathanael in John 1:46 to "come and see" this Jesus, who he believes is Christ, the Son of God.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (John 1:45-46)

Philip knows this discovery is too good to share with mere words. He knows that the best course of action is for Nathanael to *see* Jesus with his

very own eyes. To hear His voice. To receive in his hands whatever it is that this Christ has come to bring. Nathanael plays along and finds that, indeed, it really *is* best to "come and see." This is something to behold. In verse 49, Nathanael even exclaims, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Last year, I watched an interview between an LCMS pastor, Rev. William Weedon, and Matt Whitman, a pastor from a non-Lutheran church tradition. Whitman wanted to hear more about what Lutherans believe, how they worship, and what makes them unique. During the interview, Weedon mentioned that, when it comes to evangelism, Lutherans speak just like Philip. When we see, hear, and receive from Christ in the Divine Service, we know that something very special has happened, and we can't help but share this Jesus with others. We can't do anything but run out and tell everyone, "Come and see!"


In Baptism, we are all children of God. Let's play the part and, like little children, tell everyone to "come

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and see!" We can also continue encouraging our children and grandchildren, enthusiastically bringing them to church to see Jesus firsthand. Be clear with them about why we meet together for the Divine Service, about whom it is we've come to see. Tell about the gifts given in His Word and in His body and blood. Children absorb and reflect our zeal, so if we speak the truth to them about why being together with the body of Christ is the most important part of the week, they won't soon forget.

The fun doesn't stop there. We also get to invite others to church, to the place where they get to experience Jesus for themselves. Don't be shy.

We readily tell others about the best hair salons in town, the most fantastic restaurants, or the latest don't-miss series on Prime. So surely we can muster up the courage to tell others that there's something they really need to see, and it just so happens that their local LCMS church has it at the ready.

Equip your children with these words too, so that they might bring their neighbor to come and see something even greater than a completed 500-piece puzzle—the very Son of God, delivered, in Word and Sacrament. 

Author: Dcs. Jennifer L. Miller

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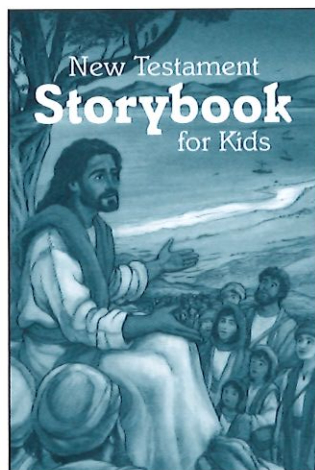
Recommended Reading

New Testament Storybook for Kids

by Concordia Publishing House

The Word of God changes lives continuously through the stories of our Savior, Jesus Christ. *New Testament Storybook for Kids* lets you share Christ's love with children ages 5 to 11 through 62 different biblical accounts.

Engage young readers with colorful artwork, prayers, and exploratory questions. Through each story and illustration, children will begin to understand the life of Christ and His sacrifice for Christians everywhere.



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