

CONNECTING WITH YOUR NETWORKS

John 1:35-49

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. **36** When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" **37** When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. **38** Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" **39** "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. **41** The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). **42** And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." **44** Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. **45** Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." **46** "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." **48** "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." **49** Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

You and Jesus

What do you like about Jesus in this passage?

Jesus knows your name. Are you more skeptical, like Nathanael, or do you like to invite people to see for themselves, like Phillip?

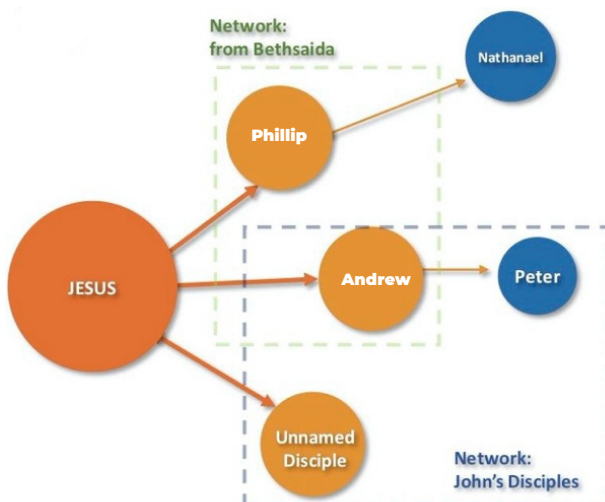
You and Others

When you know the real Jesus, you joyfully invite others to check him out.

How do you feel about inviting others to explore Jesus? Why?

What is one thing that prevents you from extending the invitation to know Jesus with everyone you meet?

Connection Map to Jesus



The connections to Jesus in the lives of Peter and Nathanael were only made possible because Andrew and Phillip were willing to engage their networks. Andrew's interaction with Jesus was so impactful that he immediately went to tell Peter he had found the Messiah. With one introduction, Peter eventually went on to be one of the most instrumental parts of growing God's kingdom. In the case of Nathanael, though he was a skeptic, once he interacted with Jesus for himself, he too believed.

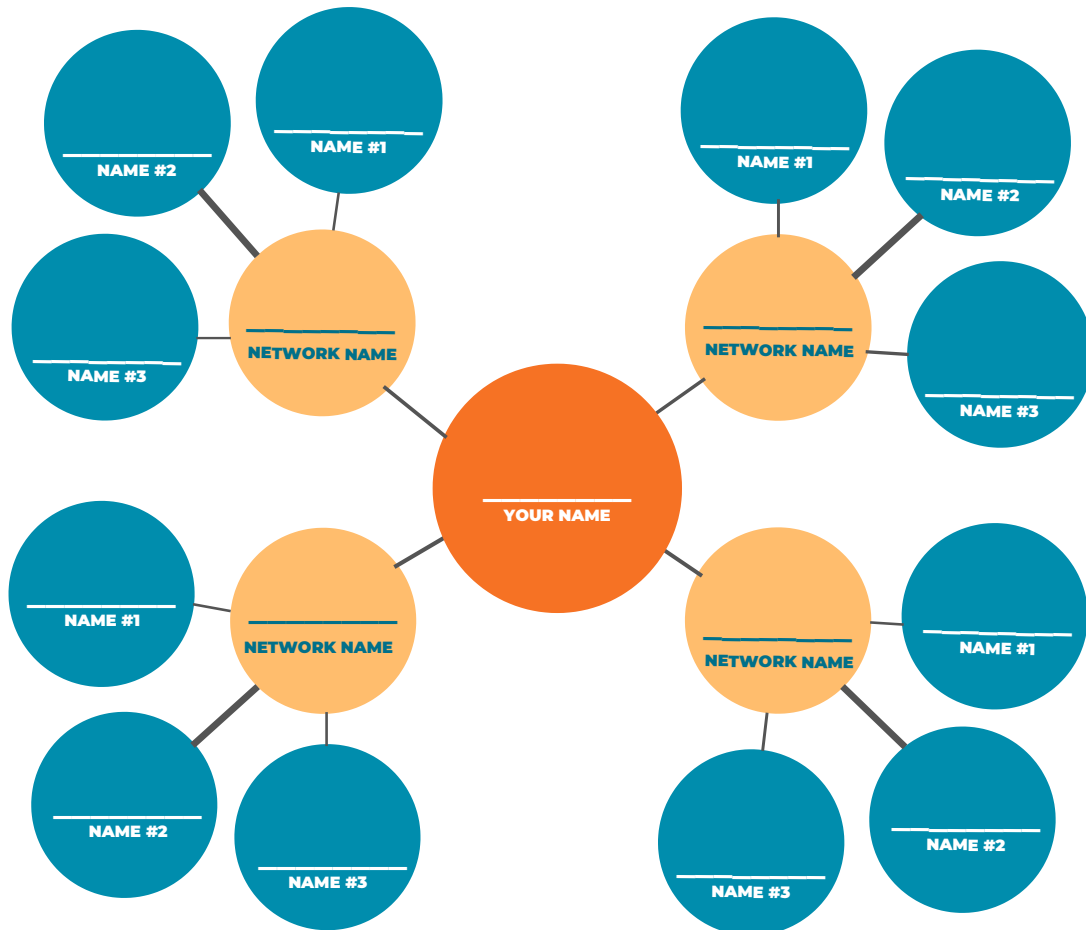
There are so many people in your network who are needing to be connected to Jesus. Who is the Lord inviting you to connect with on your map so that you may introduce them to Jesus or Christian community?

Use the next worksheet to think about the impact your connection to Jesus could have on those in your life.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR NETWORKS

Your Connection Map

Use the map below to identify four of your networks (a class, your dorm, an organization, etc.) and write 1-3 names for Black students in those networks. For each name you list, you will categorize each person as Christian, Potential Christian, or Non-Christian to help you know how to best connect them to Jesus or Christian community.



Known Christians on Your Map

Put a "†" next to each person on your map that you know are Christian.

Pick 1-2 people in this category to engage in a spiritual conversation AND invite them to the next InterVarsity gathering.

Potential Christians on Your Map

Put a "M" next to each person on your map that you understand may be a Christian.

Pick 1-2 people in this category to engage in "get to know you better" and spiritual conversations. After the third conversation, invite them to the next InterVarsity gathering.

Non-Christians on Your Map

Put a "X" next to each person on your map that you know are Christian.

Pick 1-2 people in this category to be praying for them. Pray for their salvation and that the Lord opens up an opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation eventually. Look for opportunities to have this conversation with them.