

Sunday, September 10, 2017

# THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master

Nathanael • John 1:43-51



## Coming Up at MDPC

### Blood Drive Today

Having missed several days of collection, local blood banks need donations more than ever. Walk-ins welcome!  
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

### BSD Welcome Coffee

Bible Study Discussion is about more than Biblical teaching and a closer walk with Jesus (though it has those, too!). It also offers friendships, support, a deeper prayer life...come to today's coffee to chat with others who have experienced its benefits themselves.

Today! Stop by MC 102 between 8:30 and 11:00 AM.  
Get details and sign up for this year's study: [bsd.mdpc.org](http://bsd.mdpc.org)

### Discover MDPC with Alf

Learn about MDPC, its ministries, and what it means to be a member of our faith community at this informal meeting. No commitment required!

Today! 10:45-11:10 AM | The Nook  
[membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

### New Member Class

Learn about membership, or be refreshed on what it means to be Presbyterian. Taught by MDPC pastors and elders.

Sundays, Sept. 17-Oct. 8 | 9:45-11:00 AM | MC 122  
Learn more and register: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

### The Book of Daniel

A Beth Moore Bible Study for women, 20s to 40s. The Old Testament Book of Daniel is chock-full of enough royal drama, murderous plots, and end-of-the-world prophecy to make Netflix look tame.

Every other Thursday, Sept. 14-Mar. 22 | 9:30 AM  
Learn more and register: [daniel.mdpc.org](http://daniel.mdpc.org)

### MAM Back to School

You can help children go back to school with confidence. MAM provides schools with shopping vouchers redeemable at nearby stores. A small donation goes a long way!  
[mamministries.org/backtoschool](http://mamministries.org/backtoschool)

### Live Justly

An 8-week in-depth scriptural and practical study to help all of us "live justly" in 6 essential areas of life. Unearth truths through class teaching, small group discussion, individual journaling, and class projects.

Sundays, Sept. 17-Nov. 5 | 11:00 AM | MC 218  
Learn more: [livejustly.mdpc.org](http://livejustly.mdpc.org)

### Men's Life: Conversations That Matter

This fall, we're encouraging men to have more conversations that will make a difference in life...

Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Dec. 5 | 6:15-7:45 AM  
Visit our table this morning to learn more!  
Details and registration: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)

### Noche de Sabor

MDPC's Fuente Ministries invites you to a celebration of Hispanic culture. Come experience the many traditions represented here in our church. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Saturday, Sept 23 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

### Kids' Meals Postponed

Due to Harvey's effect on the area, the service project is postponed one week. Plan to be here in 10 days with four loaves of sandwich bread, ready to make sandwiches! Kids' Meals delivers sack lunches to Houston preschoolers from families dealing with food insecurity.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 | 4:30 PM | Fellowship Hall  
Contact Julie with questions: [hempeljulie@gmail.com](mailto:hempeljulie@gmail.com)

### Flu & Tetanus Shots

Bring your medical and prescription cards! Medicare Part B and most major plans accepted. Pneumonia, whooping cough, and tetanus vaccines also will be available. Tetanus shots are particularly worth considering if you've been in floodwaters. Flu shot recipients receive a voucher for 10% off their grocery purchase at Randall's.

Sunday, Sept. 17 | 9:00 AM-Noon | Caring Min. Office  
Questions? Email [ashley.mcfalls@albertsons.com](mailto:ashley.mcfalls@albertsons.com).

### Gems & Jewels: Treasure in God's Word

5:30 PM: A Bible study for 3rd-5th grade girls seeking to learn more about the Bible and Jesus!

### Scuba: Dive Deep Into Your Faith

6:30 PM: A Bible study for 3rd-5th grade boys who want to get to know Jesus and the Bible better!

Both on Wednesdays starting Sept. 13 | Galaxy

### The Living Well

A study of Jesus through Mark's Gospel, facilitated by Charlotte Crawford. Scripture will be read aloud, followed by a brief devotional, and a time of solitary response to God's Word. Women of all ages and stages of faith are warmly welcomed!

Wednesdays at dawn | Sept. 27, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018  
Details and registration: [tlw.mdpc.org](http://tlw.mdpc.org)

### The Well: "Pursued"

As women, we long to be pursued. But we don't always feel worthy. Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages to connect. Hear a panel of real women tell their stories of God's relentless love.

Wednesday, October 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel  
Join us for refreshments at 6:00 in the Parlor.  
RSVP: [women.mdpc.org](http://women.mdpc.org)

### The Music Box Kids' Choir

This ensemble is for all kids in K-5th to learn about the fundamentals of music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment. They'll be featured in seasonal programs, and have the opportunity to lead Sunday worship!

Wednesdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 29 | 4:45-5:30 PM | Chapel  
Registration is open: [themusicbox.mdpc.org](http://themusicbox.mdpc.org)

### Prime Timers presents Name That Tune!

Harpist Louise Trotter leads a fun, interactive "Remember the Forties" musical event. She'll play a song snippet and attendees try to guess the name of the song.

Tuesday, September 19 | Parlor | Doors open 10:30 AM, Free Program at 11:00 AM, Lunch (\$10) at Noon  
Reservations due Sept. 13! Write \$10 check to "MDPC."



**MDPC**

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710

## 8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

**WELCOME** Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)

**\*SONGS OF PRAISE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Laura Miller (8:30), Sarah Stone (9:45)

**BAPTISMS** (9:45)  
 Elizabeth Brantley Butrum, daughter of Grant and Kelly Butrum  
 Emma Grace Settle, daughter of Michael and Briana Settle  
 Reeve Michael McLearn, son of Ryan and Erin McLearn

**GIFTS OF GRATITUDE**

**MESSAGE** **The First Disciples: Nathanael** (John 1:43-51) Alf Halvorson

**RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE**

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Uvaldo Callejas, bass • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums

## 11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

**PRELUDE** *Peace in the Midst of the Storm* Shirley Caesar

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP** Dave Steane

**CHORAL INTROIT** *Awake, My Heart* Jane Marshall (b.1924)

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* #489; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | UNSER HERRSCHER

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE** Amy Delgado

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from the Apostles Creed

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *The Gloria Patri* Hymn #579

**ANTHEM** *Festival Sanctus* John Leavitt (b.1951)

**OFFERTORY** *Yet I Will Rejoice in the Lord* James Biery (b.1956)

**MESSAGE** **The First Disciples: Nathanael** (John 1:43-51) Alf Halvorson

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* #366; Vs. 1, 2 | ST. CATHERINE

**POSTLUDE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* arr. Schloete

Musicians in this service: Jason Amos, soloist • Emily Borling, guest pianist/organist • Charles Hausmann, conductor

### PRAY FOR MDPC MINISTRY PARTNERS

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

**Passages Treatment Center** offers an intimate and supportive environment for women in recovery and their children. Clients arrive after going through a detox program, and stay for a holistic 90-day residential treatment program.  
[passagesforwomen.com](http://passagesforwomen.com)

**Piney Point Elementary:** MDPC partners with the children and staff at Piney Point through daily programs that include reading with second graders, staff appreciation, campus care, classroom help, and more.  
 Email Judy Hartman: [judyhart@gmail.com](mailto:judyhart@gmail.com)

**African Enterprise** is a global partnership that believes in a bright future for Africa under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It ministers to community crises such as AIDS, infant mortality, street children, and polluted water.  
[africanenterprise.org](http://africanenterprise.org)

### HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

**Cleanup Crews** from MDPC have been helping at homes in our community. We need volunteers for next Saturday, and possibly other dates. Volunteers should be 15 years or older; ages 12 to 14 may come if accompanied by an adult. Sign-up links, details, and additional dates are at [harvey.mdpc.org](http://harvey.mdpc.org).

**Relief Fund:** If you'd like to donate to the MDPC Harvey Fund, please visit [give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org).

### TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY

Janet and Ben Orman, in loving memory of Janet's mother, Jean Ford, who passed away August 19, 2017.

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 5,656,622
Actual Income to Date (Sept. 3, 2017)	\$ 5,347,377
<b>Current Income Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 309,245</b>
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 6,052,623
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 179,000

# The Prayers of Paul

6:30 PM | Chapel  
[paul.mdpc.org](http://paul.mdpc.org)

Wednesday Night Bible Study with  
**MDPC Pastor Emeritus Dave Peterson**  
 Wednesdays, September 20 & 27, and October 11  
**and Senior Pastor Alf Halvorson**  
 Wednesday, October 4



## THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master  
Nathanael & Bartholomew  
John 1:43-51  
Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the third in a series of sermons on learning discipleship from *The First Disciples*. We looked at Peter two weeks ago, and both James and John last Sunday, having lost one Sunday of worship to Hurricane Harvey. Today we look at a disciple who receives little press. *Bartholomew* is not even mentioned in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts. John only mentions *Nathanael*, never *Bartholomew*. Most scholars believe that they are the same person, as *Bartholomew* is a Hebrew surname meaning “son of Tolmai” (*bar* = “son of,” plus *Tolmai*); *Nathanael* is his first name.

1. Read John 1:43-51. In verses 43-45, what does Jesus do? What does Philip do? And what do you think Nathanael should do?
2. In verse 46, Nathanael asks a strange question. What do you think he is getting at here? What is your reaction to Philip’s answer? Is it a good answer to a tough question, or is it a bad answer? Why or why not?
3. In Verse 47, Jesus tells a joke. He says, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” *Israel* is the new name Jacob gets after he wrestles with God. *Jacob* means *usurper* or *deceiver*. So Jesus is saying, “Nathanael, you are of the deceiver clan, but you aren’t a deceiver. I know your heart.” How does Nathanael respond in verse 48? And what is Jesus’ answer to his response? (Note: There is an interesting back-and-forth dialogue going on here, almost like boxers circling each other in a ring and trying to find an opening or advantage. Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus lets us ask questions and doesn’t belittle us for our lack of understanding?)
4. With Jesus’ reply in verse 48 (“I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you”), Nathanael, in verse 49, moves from interrogator to worshipper and committed disciple. He says, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” In your mind, what changed his mind about Jesus?
5. I mentioned in my sermon that Jesus saying to Nathanael that He “saw him under the fig tree” was code language for Jesus suggesting that He saw him and heard him when he was sharing his deepest thoughts before God. Where is the place that you are most honest before God? What are your deepest needs, questions, and hopes right now before God?
6. In verses 50-51, Jesus promises Nathanael that he will see and be part of greater things than what Jesus has just revealed to him. In other words, the best is yet to come. Can you see, and affirm by faith, that the best is yet to come for you and MDPC and the City of Houston and our world? As disciples, we are in for an amazing ride with Jesus. You and I *ain’t seen nothin’ yet*.

