

CHRIST'S FIRST DISCIPLES

Lesson II.

John 1: 35-46.

January 8, 1899

Golden Text—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—John 1: 36.**Catechism**—Ques. 4. Can you see God? No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.

5. Why can you not see God? Because God is a Spirit, and has not a body as we have.

THE LESSON STORY

Our lesson to-day tells how the first disciples that Jesus, had become acquainted with Him.

There was a cousin of Jesus named John the Baptist, who was a prophet, and who had been sent by God to tell the people that Jesus was

Jesus too. When Jesus saw Simon He told him that by-and-bye his name would be changed to Peter, as that name would suit him better. Peter is the word for a rock, and Jesus meant that Simon would become very strong and steadfast as one of His followers.

The very next day Jesus met Philip, who lived in the same city as Andrew and Simon. He said to him, "Follow Me," which meant, be My disciple. Philip followed Jesus, and became one of His disciples.

Now, Philip knew a man called Nathanael, a very good and holy man, who was fond of reading in the Old Testament about Christ, and who had often wished that Christ would come, and that he could see Him with his own eyes. As soon as he had become acquainted with Jesus, Philip went to find Nathanael, and said to him that Jesus of Naz-



areth was coming. One day John was standing on the road with two of his friends, when he saw Jesus walking by. Looking straight after him, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" When these two, whose names were John and Andrew, heard that, they followed behind Jesus in the road. Jesus turned round and saw them coming, and said to them, "Who is it you are looking for?" When they heard His voice they thought they would like to know Him better, so they asked Him where He was staying. Jesus said, "Come and see." And they went with Him and stayed all night. No doubt Jesus told them many things about Himself, and why He had come into the world.

Andrew had a brother called Simon, and as soon as he could find him, he brought him to

Jesus. Jesus said to him, "Thou art Simon, the Son of God, who was to come into the world, Nathanael would not believe him at first, but Philip said, "Come and see for yourself." When Nathanael saw Jesus and heard Him speak, he said, "Behold Thou art the Son of God, Thou art the King of Israel."

Jesus took these men, and the other disciples whom He afterwards called, along with Him wherever He went, and taught them a great many things about Himself and about His Father in heaven. John, who was one of these disciples, wrote down what Jesus said and did in the Gospel from which our Lessons for this half-year are taken, so that we also might know who He was and might be His disciples.