BACKGROUND |
The religion of the Israelite people in Jesus’ time frequently made a mockery of true belief. Jesus was highly critical of the Pharisees and those making great public prayers to draw attention to themselves. Some held to the heart of true belief. Nathanael was one of these. Nathanael’s friend Philip told him he had found the Messiah, from Nazareth, and invited him to come and see him. Nathanael, knowing the poor scriptural and historical background to Nazareth, doubted his friend could be right. Jesus’ unexpected greeting caused Nathanael to ask how Jesus knew him. Jesus’ enthusiasm for Nathanael came from seeing him having his quiet time under the fig tree, out of sight of most, reading Scripture, praying and meditating alone when many others would have been skiving off. Nathanael was affirmed for what he was doing, and what that said about him, when he thought no one was looking.

QUESTIONS |
1. Have you felt like you need to show people a better image of yourself, a “church face” instead of the real you?

2. What areas of your life might there be that God praises but no one else knows about?

3. Do you have things you need to confess which you are not proud of, that God has seen but you haven’t dealt with?

4. How can you better support each other to genuinely “walk the talk”?

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |
What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

WRAP UP |
Nathanael recognised his own daily need to seek out God in quiet and reflection. Do we? Discuss how this works/ might work for you.