

Reflection:

August 2026



“Come and see.” (John 1:39)

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Looking back, I realise my entire journey in Jesus Youth began with a simple invitation. In 2003, I joined engineering college as a fresher. Like many young people entering college, I was searching for friendship, belonging, and direction. In those days, freshers often faced teasing from seniors. Amidst that uncertainty, I noticed something different about a few senior students. There was joy on their faces, warmth in their approach, and genuine interest in people. They took time to ask about my family, my background, and how I was settling in.

Before long, they invited me to a Jesus Youth gathering. Out of curiosity, I accepted. I wanted to see what made these young people different. I agreed to “come and see.” That simple invitation changed the direction of my life.

What I found was not just a meeting or programme. I found a community and friendships. Most importantly, I encountered Jesus in a new and personal way. This is what comes to mind as I reflect on John 1:35-42. How my journey began because a few young people chose to notice, to care, and to invite.

John the Baptist points two disciples toward Jesus: “Behold, the Lamb of God.” Curious, they begin to follow Him. Jesus turns and asks, “What are you looking for?” They answer, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” Jesus replies with a simple invitation: “Come and see.”

The disciples accept. They spend time with Jesus. Something changes within them. One of them is Andrew. After encountering Jesus, Andrew immediately finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. He doesn’t argue or pressure. He simply shares the joy of his discovery and invites him to meet Jesus. And before they become missionaries, they become companions. They first learn to dwell with Him.

This movement - from invitation to encounter - is at the heart of the Gospel. It is also woven into the story of Jesus Youth. Many of us can trace our journey to someone who invited us. A friend. A classmate. A neighbour. Someone who noticed us, welcomed us, listened, and invited us to prayer, retreat, or fellowship. Through that, we encountered Christ and found a community of faith.

This invitation continues. Every day becomes another “Come and see.” Every new stage of discipleship begins with returning to His presence.

Today, the need for such invitations is greater than ever. Young people are navigating a rapidly changing world. Technology has connected us like never before, yet many still experience loneliness, anxiety, confusion, and isolation. Many are searching for meaning, identity, belonging, and hope. Behind the smiles on social media are often hearts carrying burdens few others see.



Jesus' question to the first disciples is still relevant: "What are you looking for?" Many are looking for authentic relationships. For purpose. For acceptance. For hope. And whether they realise it or not, they are looking for Jesus. And Jesus is still inviting: "Come and see."

As a movement, we are called to create spaces where young people can respond to that invitation. Our fellowships, prayer meetings, retreats, and missions are not ends in themselves, but opportunities for encounter. Places where young people can experience friendship, belonging, accompaniment, and the living presence of Christ.

One beautiful strength of Jesus Youth has always been this: remaining youthful, welcoming, and missionary. Young people inviting young people. Priests, religious and families accompanying youth. Friends journeying with friends. Faith shared through real relationships. This simple approach has touched countless lives.

Over the past two years, from "Listening to the Movement," a recurring theme emerged: the desire for deeper relationships, stronger communities, meaningful accompaniment, and renewed missionary outreach. Through this, we sensed the Lord inviting us to deeper conversion — in our relationships, in our life of communion, and in how we live out our mission.

Renewal begins with encounter. Mission begins with invitation. Young people are waiting. The key question before us is: Are we still extending the invitation?

Are our communities places where newcomers feel welcomed?

Are we creating spaces for personal encounters with Jesus?

Are we reaching out to those who are searching or lonely?

Are we, like Andrew, bringing others to Jesus?

The future of our movement won't be shaped only by plans or activities. It will be shaped by disciples who hear Jesus' invitation and invite others to encounter Him.

Let us ask the Lord to renew in us the grace of invitation. To become people who notice, welcome, accompany, and lead others to Christ.

Who is the "Simon" God is placing in my life today?

Who is waiting for a simple invitation?

May our answer be courageous and generous. And may we continue to echo Jesus to a generation searching for hope: "Come and see."

Midhun Paul

Co-ordinator, Jesus Youth International Council

