

JANUARY 14, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Trusted relationships help people follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Ephesians 6:1-4	Nurturing faith at home
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Timothy's faith through family
Friday	2 John 1:12-13	Nurturing faith by relationships
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." John 1:45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Nurturing God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through others that we may have confidence and joy as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food you care for our lives and our physical wellbeing; we thank you for the many ways you show your love for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy as a follower of Jesus.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*You Have Come Down
to the Lakeshore*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Who is someone you trust and why do you put your trust in that person?
- Who has helped you as a follower of Jesus? What was it about this person that encouraged you in your Christian life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:35-51.

Beginning with the wise men from the East and Jesus' baptism, Epiphany is the season that focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. In John 1 it is the followers of Jesus who do some of that revealing. Jesus "found" Philip and brings him into the fold of followers. Just as Jesus "found" Philip, now Philip finds Nathanael (vv. 43, 45). Philip is described as someone from Bethsaida, the same hometown as Andrew and Peter who were just added to Jesus' followers. It is likely they had been neighborhood boys, familiar with one another. These are examples of faith formed through personal relationships. First, it was John the Baptist pointing to Jesus that drew in Andrew, and then Andrew "found" Peter and brought in his brother. Now Philip is added to the group, and he goes and gets his friend Nathanael. Nathanael is a skeptic. Philip simply suggests with a note of confidence that Nathanael should find out for himself.

Nathanael then has his own experience of being "found" by Jesus and he, too, is drawn in.

Discuss: How do you speak about Jesus to others?

Pray: **Faithful God, we thank you for those you have placed in our lives to help us in our life's journey as a follower of Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, as a follower of Jesus, how can you encourage someone in their faith?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 139 speaks poetically about the intimate relationship that God has with us. We are fully and utterly known by God and God's love for us. Take time to read Psalm 139:1-6 and 13-18. Think about the personal relationship you have with God. How has that relationship been enriched by others who have nurtured you in the Christian faith over the years? Consider writing a card thanking one or more people for their care for you in your Christian faith.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org