

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas

Dec. 26, 2022–  
Jan. 1, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 4:4–7

**THEME:** A Savior is Born to Be the True Son

**SONG:** CW21 364 Love Has Come

**VISUAL:** Alarm clock (either physical or alarm app on phone)

## OBJECT LESSON

What time did you wake up this morning? Which one of you got up the earliest this morning and which of you got up the latest? (ask for some answers from the students)

Throughout our day, we have to pay attention to what time it is. We have to wake up at a certain time. We have to eat breakfast and brush our teeth before a certain time. We need to be dressed, especially in winter with coats and gloves, and ready to go before a certain time. Then, throughout the school day, you study certain subjects at certain times—and that math test you have been worrying about is at a certain time! Then, after school, there are so many activities that are scheduled before finally getting home, eating around a certain time, brushing teeth, nighttime prayers and devotion, and finally bedtime. There are so many things that follow a set scheduled time.

If you were to set “alarms” for important events throughout the history of the world, which events would you include? Each day of creation? The Flood? The 10 plagues? What about events a little more recent? Columbus sailing to America? World War 1 and 2? September 11? The death of Queen Elizabeth?

## BIBLE TRUTH

No matter which important historical events you might put on that list, the most important ones to our God all have to do with Jesus. In the reading today, we hear that the set time had fully come for Jesus to be born. All of the events of history, some very important and some not so important, were part of God’s plan to prepare the world for Jesus to come into it, live in it, and offer himself as a sacrifice on the cross to save it.

Because God set that time for Jesus to come into the world—and because he paid attention to his alarm and did send Jesus—you and I have been redeemed. Jesus is the true Son and perfect Savior who came to live a life of perfect obedience to all of God’s commands and suffer the punishment on the cross for all of our sins.

Because Jesus is the true Son and perfect Savior, we have been adopted into his family by the Holy Spirit. We have the privilege to call God “Father” and go to him in prayer. We have the gift of eternal life waiting for us... all because of God’s gift at just the right time at Christmas.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What is the most comforting and encouraging thought about being a child of God?

## PRAYER

Lord God, we praise you that you have arranged all of time to bring our Savior into the world. Please send the Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may live as your dear children all our days. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



# 1st Sunday After Epiphany

Jan. 2, 2023–  
Jan. 8, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3:13–17

**THEME:** Jesus Appears as the Anointed One

**SONG:** CW21 377/ CW93 89 – To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord

**VISUAL:** A bar of soap, a bottle of body wash, loofah

## OBJECT LESSON

Does anyone know what these are used for? When I was little, I used to think that as long as you rinsed something off with water, it was clean. However, as I got older, I began to realize the importance of soap—whether for my bike, dishes, or my body. Just plain water won’t do the trick, you need an actual cleansing agent, something that will actually wash you along with the water.

In church, we often talk about being washed with water, too, but there is something else attached to the water that makes you actually clean before God—clean from all of your sins. Just like soap, God’s Word, when used with water washes away all of our sins, so we are spotless in the eyes of God.

## BIBLE TRUTH

In our reading today, we heard about the Baptism of Jesus. Like I said, when we are baptized, it is to wash away our sins. But, Jesus didn’t have any sins; so why was he baptized?

Well, for Jesus, baptism had somewhat the opposite effect. Rather than getting baptized to get rid of his sins, Jesus was baptized to mark him as the One that God chose to take the sins of the world on himself. The Bible uses a special word for that “marking” and singling Jesus out as God’s chosen one. That word is Anointed. And, that word anointed is the reason why we call Jesus “Christ/ Messiah.” Christ wasn’t his last name, but a sort of nickname or title that people called him to remind everyone around that he was the one chosen and anointed by God to be the Savior of the world. He was the one who would take the world’s sin on himself and go to the cross to receive God’s punishment for all of those sins.

Now, whether we are using soap and water to clean something, or when we have any reminders of our baptism, we can know for sure that we are completely clean from sin in the eyes of our God!

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What things happened in the reading from today that made Jesus’ baptism different than your baptism?

How were all three persons of the Trinity represented at Jesus’ baptism?

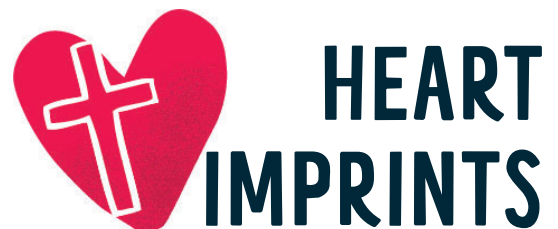
How were all three persons of the Trinity evident at your baptism?

Do you know the day when you were baptized?

What symbols or pictures in church remind us of baptism?

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank for you undergoing baptism for us to indicate that you were ready to take our sins on yourself. Lead us to see our baptism as the way you have removed our sins and made us your dear children. Amen.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Jan. 9, 2023–  
Jan. 15, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:29–41

**THEME:** Jesus Appears as the Lamb of God

**SONG:** CW 525 – The Lamb

**VISUAL:** A wedding photo album (physical or digital)

### OBJECT LESSON

Share the date of your wedding. That was a pretty big day in my life. I got together with members of my family and as many of my friends as possible. Most of them even got dressed up for the occasion. (show pictures of friends and family) I ordered enough food to feed all of them—dinner and dessert! (picture of wedding cake). But, really, the day wasn't about my friends or about food. We gathered together that day because I got married that day (picture of bride and groom).

Now—while the day wasn't about food or friends or family, I wanted as many of my family members and friends to be there because I felt it was an important day and event in my life. We even hired a photographer to take pictures of the event so that we could look at and remember that day. It was an important day and I wanted to share what was important to me with as many of the people I love as possible.

What important things in your life do you want to share with others? Maybe you want to share your birthday? A video game? Your favorite tv show or song? If it is something that you like, something that you think is important, you probably want to share it with others.

### BIBLE TRUTH

When Jesus was just starting his ministry here on earth, people weren't quite sure who he was. They didn't know if he was just another prophet like John the Baptist or if he was something more or better. John the Baptist removed all doubt and kept pointing people to go to Jesus, letting them know that he was so much better than himself—Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Andrew heard what John the Baptist said, followed Jesus and then, because he was so excited to find the Lamb of God, he found his brother, Peter, and told him to come and follow Jesus, too.

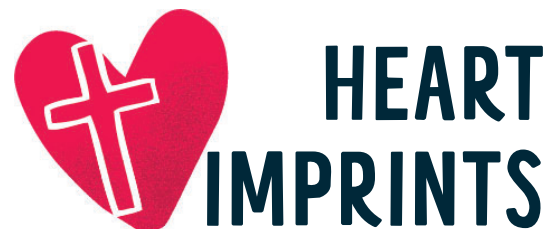
Jesus is so much more important than a song, a video, or even a wedding day and, because he is so important to us, we want to share the Lamb of God with the people we know and love, too.

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Why do you think Jesus is called the Lamb of God? Discuss the importance of the blood of the "perfect" lamb in the Passover.

### PRAYER

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace. Amen.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Jan. 16, 2023–  
Jan. 22, 2023

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 2:3–11

**THEME:** Jesus Appears as the Light in the Darkness

**SONG:** CW21 515/ CW93 343 – Christ Is the World's Light

**VISUAL:** Police badge, hammer, baseball mitt (alternatively, a picture of a police officer, a construction worker, a baseball player)

## OBJECT LESSON

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. That's a quote from a man named Oscar Wilde and it is a good one because it makes sense. If you admire someone, you might make changes in your life to be more like them. And, on the off chance that the person you admire finds out that you are imitating them, doing or saying things the way that they do, they will be flattered by the imitation.

But, of course, imitation is more than just looking like someone on the outside. If you admire a police officer, imitating them involves more than just carrying a badge around or wearing a uniform. You would need to show courage and valor and serve others, as well. If you admire a construction worker, imitation is more than just carrying a hammer wherever you go; it's also about being a hard worker and making sure that you do your best in all your work. Just because you wear a baseball mitt doesn't mean that you are a professional baseball player. Imitating them, instead, involves hours and hours of practice and time spent studying and honing your craft.

## BIBLE TRUTH

In the book of 1 John, God encourages his people to imitate Jesus. But, of course, that involves so much more than wearing sandals on your feet and growing a beard! Christians aren't followers of Jesus simply because they wear a cross necklace. Christians walk in the light of Jesus; which means that they show love to others and put others before themselves in every single thing they say and do.

When you think about the different people in your life, there might be some who are very kind to you and you love them, but Jesus' love extended even to the people who hated him and didn't deserve his love. In fact, including you and me, no one was deserving of his love, but he showed it to us and to all people when he lived a perfect life in our place and sacrificed that life on the cross to pay for all of our sins.

Walking in the light of Jesus means showing love to all people; and what better way to do that than by showing them the love Jesus showed to them in his life and death for them and for their forgiveness!

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Can you think of some events in Jesus' life where he showed love to others? How can you imitate that love that in your life?

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank you for showing your love to us and lighting up our lives. Please send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us to imitate your love in all that we do. Amen.



# HEART IMPRINTS