

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jan. 1, 2024-  
Jan. 7, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:4-11

**THEME:** It Begins with Baptism

**SONG:** CW21 684 Father Welcomes

**VISUAL:** A starting line

## OBJECT LESSON

How does a race begin? (Take student answers.) Racers line up at a starting line (show image if needed). A line is needed to start the race to make it fair for all runners. If everyone could choose where to start the race, every racer would try and get an advantage to help them win. A starting line signals the beginning of a race.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus was sent to earth to save sinful people. His work was about to begin and it starts with baptism. Jesus had John the Baptist baptize him in the Jordan River. His race was about to start. Jesus would use the rest of his life on Earth to complete God's plan to save the world.

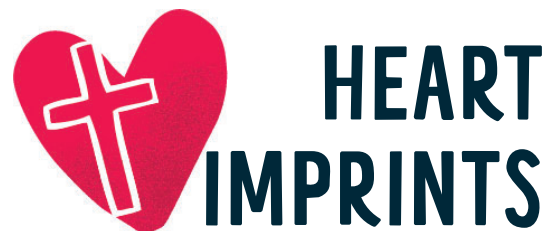
Jesus didn't need to be baptized as he was perfect. But he was baptized to serve as a sign that he was the Messiah. God the Father spoke and the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove. Jesus was ready to complete God's plan of salvation.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus being baptized seems like a simple Bible story. Yet, the meaning behind it reminds us how powerful our Savior is. Jesus began his ministry with baptism. Do we have a starting line just like Jesus? Our baptism was the beginning of a new and better life—eternal life!—a gift graciously given to us by our truest friend. Jesus' ministry and our eternity with him. It begins with baptism.

## PRAYER

Dear God,  
Thank you for sending your Son to live the life that we can't. We praise you for the mercy and grace you showed us when you brought us into your family of believers at our baptism. Keep us in faith through the power of your Word. In your name we pray, Amen.



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

Jan. 8, 2024-  
Jan. 14, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:43-51

**THEME:** The Kindness in His Calling

**SONG:** CW21 584 - Jesus Loves Me

**VISUAL:** A path in a woods

### OBJECT LESSON

How many of you have been hiking before? How important is it to follow a path? (Display image of a path in the woods). Take student responses. The path marks the way to travel so a hiker doesn't become lost. Beyond the path could lay dangers- a steep dropoff, poisonous plants, or the risk of getting lost. Hikers make sure they know where they are going.

### BIBLE TRUTH

The path God has laid out for us as believers is perfection. God expects perfection and we as sinners cannot stay on the path God wants us to be on. God shows kindness to his people as we hear in our lesson today. Read John 1:43-51.

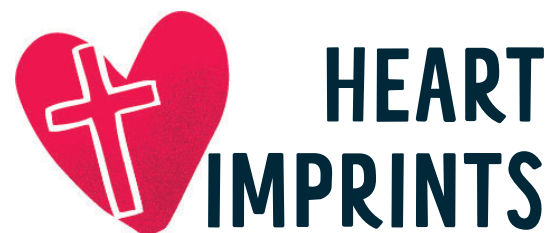
Jesus wanted Philip and Nathaniel to become his disciples. Jesus knew how sinful they were, but still wanted them to help spread his Word. He showed kindness by calling Philip and Nathaniel, so that they both could still be his disciples and learn from him.

### DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

While we aren't living in Bible times, Jesus calls us to be a disciple too. God knows every sin we have committed and will commit, but still wants us to be his disciples. There is no hiding our sin from our all-seeing and all-knowing God. Yet, Jesus wants us to be with him and to know his love. We can be Jesus' disciples too! Jesus has found us and called us to believe in him and listen to his Word. That's how we are his disciples.

### PRAYER

Dear God, you daily show us love and forgiveness. Despite our sin, you show kindness by calling us to be your disciples. Help us answer that call and follow you and your Word. In your name we pray, Amen.



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

Jan. 15, 2024 -  
Jan. 21, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:14-20

**THEME:** Committed to a Lofty Charge

**SONG:** CW21 746 - I Love to Tell the Story (v. 1,7,3)

**VISUAL:** Photos of various careers

## OBJECT LESSON

What is a job that is very important? What jobs do people have that help others? (Take student answers and show photos of people's careers if needed.) It would be hard to say what job is the "best," as many jobs are important. Doctors, bus drivers, teachers, construction workers, and firefighters all have jobs that are helpful to us.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus was calling his disciples to follow him. Today, we hear about Simon and Andrew answering Jesus' call to be disciples. Read Mark 1:14-20. Simon and Andrew were doing their job- fishing in the Sea of Galilee when Jesus approached them. He says, "Come, follow me" and Simon and Andrew instantly leave their boats and nets and become Jesus' disciples.

They were ready to be Jesus' disciples. They left everything from their work of being fishermen and were ready to spend the rest of their lives spreading God's Word to everyone around them.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Do you think we have the same important job as Simon and Andrew? Jesus calls us all to be followers, but he also asks some to do it full time- like missionaries, pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. We are Jesus' disciples. Perhaps you might consider studying to be a pastor or teacher. But even if you don't, we can all answer Jesus' call to spread the gospel to those around us who need to hear the saving truth no matter what our career becomes. and you can even do that right now. Who can you share the message of Jesus with?

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us the job of spreading your Word. Help us to gladly accept that calling and to faithfully fulfill that call during our time of grace. Give us the strength, patience, and perseverance we need to live the life of a Christian. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jan. 22, 2024-  
Jan. 28, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:21-28

**THEME:** Absolute Authority

**SONG:** CW21 517/ CW93 353 - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

**VISUAL:** Judge in a courtroom

## OBJECT LESSON

What does a judge do? (Display an image of a judge in a courtroom.) Judges decide if people did something to break a law or didn't. When the judge says the words "guilty" or "innocent" the people listen to the verdict. But a judge doesn't have complete control of everything.

## BIBLE TRUTH

There is one person who has absolute, complete authority- Jesus. Our lesson today shows how absolute that control is. Read Mark 1:21-28. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and the people were already amazed at how he taught with authority.

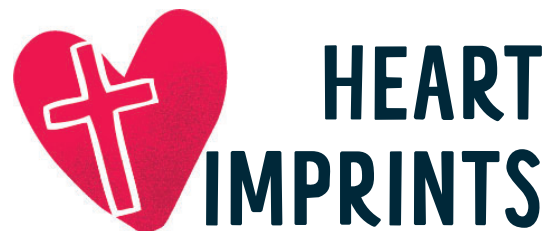
A man possessed by an evil spirit cries out to Jesus, asking if Jesus has come to destroy them. Even an evil spirit knew the almighty power that Jesus had. Jesus drives the demon out with simple words, "Come out of him!" The demon couldn't deny the absolute authority that Jesus has. The people who saw what happened quickly spread the news about what they had seen. Jesus has absolute authority that is everlasting!

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We can be happy knowing that Jesus is in control! We don't need to worry about things in this life that make us sad or angry because Jesus is in control of everything. God promises to hear our prayers and answer them how he sees best. Jesus is in control of everything!

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings you bestow on your believers daily. In your absolute authority, you hold and protect your followers throughout their lives. Help us honor you all our days as we live and grow in our faith. In your name we pray, Amen.



# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jan. 29, 2024 -  
Feb. 4, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:29-39

**THEME:** The Devil's Work Undone

**SONG:** CW21 850/ CW93 760 - It is Well with My Soul

**VISUAL:** A fairy tale book (e.g. Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, etc)

## OBJECT LESSON

Do you like books? What stories do you like to read? Scary stories? Animal stories? Fairy tales? (Display book images as needed.) Fairy tales are stories that usually have good against bad, magic, and most importantly, a happy ending. Good always wins and the hero or heroine in the story always ends up happy at the end of the story.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Life is full of good and bad. The devil tries to lead God's people away from him. Our lesson today shows us the power Jesus has over the devil. Read Mark 1:29-39. Jesus hears about his disciple Simon's mother-in-law who is sick in bed with a fever. Jesus didn't stop to talk to people, but instead rushed immediately to the house and healed Simon's mother-in-law. Sickness, illness, even death cannot stop the almighty power of Jesus. Many people came to find Jesus so he could hear them.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

The devil wants bad things to happen to believers like us. We don't have to worry as Jesus is stronger than the devil. Our life isn't like a fairy tale. We are sinners who need Jesus. Jesus undoes the devil's work and we know that Jesus is in control of our lives. Jesus undid the devil's worst work by dying on the cross to take away our sins. Bad things do still happen in our lives though. God promises to help us and renew our strength. We study God's Word so that our faith can be strengthened. How happy we are that Jesus has almighty power- even over the devil!

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, forgive us when we are led astray from your Word. Help us to stand firm in our faith and against the devil. Thank you for renewing our strength and undoing the work of the devil. We rest assured that nothing is stronger than your almighty power and you hold us in the palm of your hand. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
IMPRINTS**

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Feb. 5, 2024 -  
Feb. 11, 2024  
Pre-K  
Message

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 9:2-9

**THEME:** A Glimpse of His True Glory

**SONG:** CW21 713/ CW93 771 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**VISUAL:** Clipart image of a kid sleeping in a bed with a dream bubble

## OBJECT LESSON

What kinds of dreams do you have at night? (Show image of a kid sleeping in a bed with a dream bubble.) In dreams, you can become a superhero, drive fast cars, walk with dinosaurs, or whatever your imagination comes up with. Sometimes, when you wake up it's hard to tell if your dream was a dream or real life. You get a glimpse of a whole different world and then suddenly you wake up and the dream is over.

## BIBLE TRUTH

Our Bible lesson today is no dream. We hear of Jesus showing his disciples a glimpse of his true glory. Read Mark 9:2-9. Peter, James, and John are led to a high mountain with Jesus. On the mountain, Jesus transforms or changes before them. "His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them." Peter, James, and John were fortunate enough to see Jesus in his almighty power!

God the Father then spoke to the disciples there and said, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" And then Jesus was just as he appeared before. The disciples got to see a glimpse of Jesus in his power to remind them that He is God.

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We weren't on that mountain with Peter, James, and John and we didn't see Jesus in his glory. Yet, we still see the glory of Christ when he died on the cross and in the words of the Bible that we study daily. We see Jesus in his dazzling presence and God the Father speaks to us the same words, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" God means us! We await the day until we will see Jesus in his glory.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us a glimpse of your glory through your Word. We praise you as our almighty Lord and Savior! Hold us fast until the day when we will join you again in heaven and see you in your almighty glory. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART  
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