

1st
Sunday
After Christmas
December 20-
Dec. 26 2021

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2:14-18

THEME: Jesus is Our Brother

SONG: CW93 41/ CW21 355 Let all Together Praise our God

VISUAL: Picture of a newborn, newborn being held by older siblings

OBJECT LESSON

Explain who is in the photo. Ask the students if they have brothers or sisters? How many are the oldest? How many are the youngest? It can be exciting when a new baby is born in the family.

When a baby is born people like to say they have mom's eyes or dad's nose. Sometimes brothers or sisters can look so much like each other that they might even get called by each other's names. Ask the students if they ever get told they look like a family member or called by their siblings name.

BIBLE TRUTH

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In Hebrews we learn that since Jesus was born to save people (us) he needed to be just like us. Jesus might not look like us physically: eye color, hair color, or nose shape, he came to earth born just like we were. Jesus was 100% human. While he was here on Earth he felt things like us (hungry, tired, sad) and even faced temptations. Jesus also needed to be human so that he could die in our place to pay for all of our sins

The one way Jesus is not like us is that he did not sin. He kept the whole law perfectly in our place which we could never do.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We can have comfort knowing that Jesus was our brother (a human like us) who was tempted and faced human suffering while he was on earth. Even though we often fall into temptation, Jesus did not. He kept the whole law perfectly in our place.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to be our brother. You know what it was like to face temptations and you kept the whole law perfectly in our place. Help us when we face temptations. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

2nd Sunday
After Christmas
December 27-
Jan. 2, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7

THEME: Adopted Children of God

SONG: CW93 41/ CW21 355 Let all Together Praise our God

VISUAL: Family Photo

OBJECT LESSON

Talk about who is in the photo. For celebrations of holidays or birthdays it can be fun to get together with our family. Moms, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, or siblings. Families can be a great blessing from God whether they are made up of lots of people or just a few, being part of a family is a great thing. Talk about good things about having a family.

BIBLE TRUTH

In the Bible reading we learn that we are adopted into God's family because of what Jesus did. Without Jesus we could not belong to God's family on our own. Our sin separates us from him and we are outsiders. We don't get the blessings of being in God's family until we get adopted. Adopted means even if we weren't born into the family we still get to be part of the family. Because Jesus was born to live perfectly in our place and die on the cross for us, God sees us as Holy and adopts us into his family.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Ask the students to point out or share the name of the piece of church furniture where our adoption into God's family happens. [Baptismal Font] Outline the many blessings of our baptism by highlighting the special benefits we receive because we are adopted into God's Family [wash away sin, receiving God's name; salvation and life eternally]

Those benefits are so great that Baptism is one of the tools that he gave his disciples in the Great Commission. It is a powerful tool that we use today to bring people into God's family.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for adopting us as your children and making us part of your family.
Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

Epiphany

Jan. 6, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

THEME: Jesus is the Light of the World

SONG: CW93 83/ CW21 372 st. 1 As with Gladness
Men of Old

VISUAL: Picture of traffic lights or flashing bicycle light

OBJECT LESSON

Some lights have meanings. Ask the students what the lights of a traffic light mean? Are there other examples of lights that have meanings? A flashing light might mean "watch out!"

BIBLE TRUTH

In Matthew 2 we learn about the wise men who traveled a long way to worship Jesus. Without phones, text messaging, or e-mails, how did they know that the king had been born? God had placed a special star as a signal to them. The star had a special meaning. They understood that meaning because they were from the part of the world where Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had lived. And their proclamation of the truth was still being studied, many years later by these wise men. They were able to travel a great distance knowing they were going the right way because of the special star. A special light led the wise men to Jesus. Jesus is our Light to show us the way to heaven.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

In John 1 Jesus is called the light of all mankind and the light that shines in the darkness. How can we find Jesus today in our world that is so darkened by sin? There are no special stars to follow. Without God and his word we can't know or learn about Jesus. God used his Word to point the way to Jesus for the wisemen and he still uses that Word today to help us learn more about him.

You can be a special light for someone by sharing God's Word with them!

Think about how God can use you to be a special light to tell others about Jesus!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you led the wise men to Jesus using a special star. Help us to learn more about Jesus through your word. Help us be a light to others so they too can learn from your word about Jesus. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

1st
Sunday
After Epiphany
January 3-
Jan. 9, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

THEME: What the eye sees differs from what God decrees

SONG: CW93 89/ CW21 377 st. 1,2,4 To Jordan's River
Came our Lord

VISUAL: Optical illusion - lines that are actually the same
size, faces or vase, spiral etc.

OBJECT LESSON

Show an optical illusion to the students. Discuss why the illusion works or why different people see different things even though they are looking at the same thing. Sometimes our eyes can play tricks on us!

BIBLE TRUTH

Discuss some facts about John. Because John was a special preacher many of the people at the time thought he might be the promised Messiah. But their eyes tricked them. He was different and a preacher sent by God, but not the promised Messiah.

To the people at the time, Jesus seemed like an ordinary person. He did not seem special in any way. He was the son of a carpenter. On the day Jesus comes to John to be baptized, God's voice from heaven tells everyone there, "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you." The truth that Jesus was God's Son was not easy to tell just from his outward appearance.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Just like in Jesus' day we are often distracted and tricked by things around us. What draws our attention away from Jesus and his Word?

Just like in Jesus' day God clearly demonstrates that Jesus is the Promised of Ages. How did God make it clear to the people at Jesus's Baptism that he is the Christ? [Spoke the words, "This is my Son." The Holy Spirit was present.] Where do we see Jesus today? [Words, Sacraments, spiritual care of parents, teachers, pastors, friends]

Just like in Jesus' day, the Holy Spirit is present at our Baptism. When God's triune name is given to us in our baptism, saving faith is worked in our hearts and we are at peace with God.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for putting faith in our hearts. Forgive us when our eyes and hearts play tricks on us. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

2nd Sunday
After Epiphany
January 10-
Jan. 16, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 62:5b

THEME: Joy!

SONG: CW 93 137 st. 1 / CW21 st. 1 & 4
O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

VISUAL: Photo from a wedding

OBJECT LESSON

Have the students raise their hands if they have been to a wedding. What was it like? The students might describe getting dressed up, fancy food, dancing, or another fun part. No matter what activities took place at the wedding, usually one thing is true. The people getting married are happy and the people who get to attend the wedding are happy too!

BIBLE TRUTH

In the Bible - Isaiah 62 verse 5 says "and just as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride, your God will rejoice over you." There are several times in the Bible where God uses the picture of a wedding and the groom and the bride to explain his love for us. When we sin it is like we are wearing dirty ragged clothes that are not appropriate for a fancy wedding. But we don't have to despair, Jesus clothes us with the perfect outfit and invites us to come to the party.

When people get married they are making a promise to stay together for the rest of their lives. God has made a promise that we get to be with him in heaven forever! Heaven will be even better than a wedding here on earth.

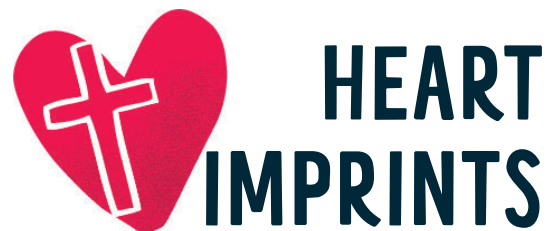
DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Just like the wedding guests and bride and groom are filled with joy at a wedding, God rejoices in your faith and that you will get to be in heaven with him forever. We can be joyful that God loves us so much that he paid for our sins and is saving a place for us in heaven.

At a wedding the bride and groom get to share their happiness with all of the guests. How can we share our joy in Jesus with other people?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us so much that you sent your son to die for our sins. Help us share our joy in you with those around us. Amen.



3rd Sunday
After Epiphany
January 17-
Jan. 23, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:29-31

THEME: Be Bold

SONG: CW93 340/ CW21 520 st. 1&2 Oh for a Thousands
Tongues to Sing

VISUAL: Superhero action figure

OBJECT LESSON

Who has a favorite superhero? Have one or two students explain what makes their favorite superhero so super. Because they have a cool ability like being able to fly or turn invisible? What is it that makes them a hero? Heroes try to help people even when it is hard or they have to face danger.

BIBLE TRUTH

The early church and even Jesus himself experienced how hard it is to help people with the good news about Jesus. Many people did not want to learn that they were sinners in need of a savior. They did not want to learn about Jesus. Recall what Jesus had told his disciples when he before he died, rose and ascended into heaven. "If they persecuted me, they will . . ." The early disciples even got put in prison because they were preaching about Jesus.

In the Bible reading the disciples prayed to God "...give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness..." They wanted to keep on helping others with the good news about Jesus even if it would be hard or dangerous. God answered their prayer and helped them continue telling others about Jesus boldly!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Unfortunately, rejecting Jesus and his word is something with which we are all too familiar. It wasn't just the people who turned their backs on God's Word. Can you recall times when the disciples rejected the message that Jesus brought? [Peter - Jesus' death and not eating with Gentile Christians; when they argued who was the greatest; when they

didn't believe Jesus word about his death and resurrection.]

We also reject God's Word. Our sinful world lures us in so that we adopt their view about marriage, gender, evolution, and in many other areas. Our sinful nature rejects Jesus when we put ourselves first, when we think and share evil about our neighbor, and when we are slow to hear and learn God's word. Thanks be to God that Jesus' rejection on the cross cancels out and pays the penalty for our rejection!

Now God allows us to be heroes who help people by telling them about Jesus, even when it is hard or scary. What things can make sharing the good news about Jesus hard today? Do we face rejection or are people mean to us when we try to tell them about Jesus? What can we do if we have failed to share the news about Jesus when we should? We have forgiveness, and he promises to help us!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we are not bold in sharing your word. We pray along with your early church that you would give us your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness! Amen!



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

4th Sunday
After Epiphany
January 24-
Jan. 30, 2022

SCRIPTURE: 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17, 4:2-4

THEME: Be Bold

SONG: CW93 570/ CW 21 901 st. 1 & 3 O Christians, Haste
CW21 741 st. 1 & 2 We have a Gospel to Proclaim

VISUAL: Specific equipment needed for a task

OBJECT LESSON

If you wanted to cut something out you'd need... scissors. If you wanted to play softball, you'd need a ball, a bat and glove. Share other tasks that require specific tools or equipment.

BIBLE TRUTH

Read the bible lesson. Verse 17 says that the servant of God "may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." What is it we are equipped with? God-breathed Scripture. God's Word in the Bible. Without God's Word we are missing the tools and equipment to know about Jesus. Without God's Word there is no way to know about our savior.

Later in chapter 4 the writer Paul gives a warning. "For the time or the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." Sometimes people (even us!) don't want to hear the truth found in God's Word. We repent of the times we have listened to things that were not the truth and turn to Jesus for forgiveness.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Because we have God's Word we are equipped to do "every good work." What good work?

Teaching others about Jesus. And not just teaching others, we are encouraged to "continue in what you have learned and become convinced of" You are made wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. We need to continue learning about Jesus' love for us by studying his word.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us your Word, the Bible, and for helping us learn about you. Forgive us for the times we want to listen to other people instead of the truth in your Word. Thank you for pastors and teachers who bring your Word to us so we can be fully equipped to do the good works that you have prepared in advance for us to do. Amen.

