



The Word @ Home

Epiphany 1

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12;
Matthew 3:13-17

The Point

Both foreigners and God's own voice declare who Jesus is.

Key Verse

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.
– Matthew 2:11

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
– Matthew 3:17

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 3:13-17

The Messiah Revealed

Jesus has been born, and the wise men come to honor the one born as the king of the Jews. These are gentile astrologers who go first to the palace of the king. Herod was a puppet-king of Rome who do not take kindly to the type of revolution many Jews were expecting from the Messiah. When the wise men find Jesus in Bethlehem, they present gifts fit for royalty. They receive a warning in another dream to go home avoiding Herod. Joseph also received a dream-visitation and escaped with his family to Egypt.

The Gospel writer briefly describes Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan by John. During the baptism, we hear of the Spirit descending upon Jesus and a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; Isaiah 42:1-9

In Isaiah 60, the people of God who have been scattered will be gathered. Israel's fortunes will be reversed; instead of the Gentiles persecuting them, the nations will bring them wealth. In Isaiah 42, the prophet speaks again about a promised servant, the Messiah, who will bring forth justice to the nations.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12; Acts 10:34-43

Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, pointing out that he is a prisoner for Jesus for the Gentiles, to whom he has been sent as an apostle. Through Peter's experience with the Gentile, Cornelius, Peter has come to understand that the good news of Jesus is for everyone not just the Jewish people.

Seasons & Festivals

The festival of Epiphany is celebrated directly after the twelfth day of Christmas, on January 6th, or the closest Sunday. This festival celebrates the revelation (epiphany) of Jesus to the world, specifically in the story of the Magi. The festival of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates Jesus' baptism by John and the revelatory voice from heaven declaring, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." The liturgical color for both festivals is white or sometimes gold.

Discussion Starters

- Search online for more information about the star that the wise men followed.
- What does it mean to you to know that God is pleased with you?
- How have you seen Jesus revealed?

Prayer of the Week

Help us to reveal Jesus to those we meet. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus is baptized.
Share stories about your baptism. How are they like the baptism of Jesus? How are they different?

Monday

Read Acts 10:44-48 Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit.
Think of one person that could benefit from hearing God's word. Pray for them.

Tuesday

Read Acts 8:4-13 Philip preaches in Samaria.
Describe what you think it would have been like to be a believer during this time.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 89:5-37 The heavens praise God.
Choose your favorite verse in this psalm of praise. Share why you chose it.

Thursday

Read Galatians 1:6-12 Paul preaches about the gospel.
Think of (or make up) phrases that sound like they should be in the Bible but are not. Search a concordance or online to see if you are right.

Friday

Read Genesis 27:30-38 Jacob steals Esau's blessing.
There is sibling rivalry even in the Bible. What other stories of real-life situations are in the Bible?

Saturday

Read Luke 5:1-11 Jesus calls the first disciples.
Make a fishing game using a sheet or the back of a couch, a yardstick, some string, a clothes pin or paper clip, and small prizes.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
You are God's beloved child. God is pleased with you.