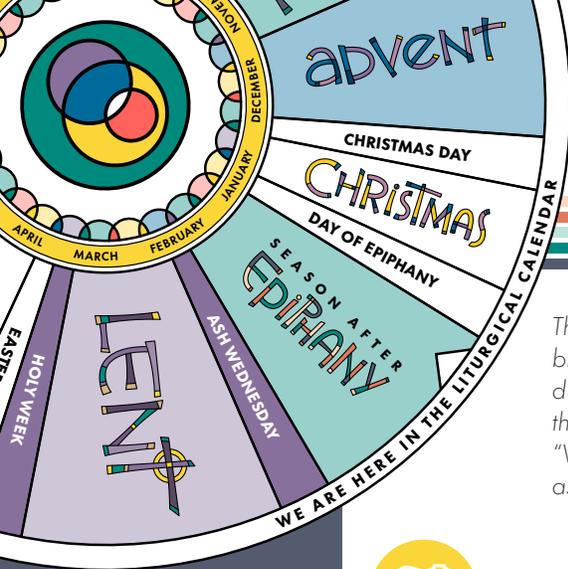


John 1:29-42

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, Sunday between January 14 and January 20



The Season after Epiphany began with the three wise ones following the star and ends with the bright lights of Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain. Epiphany means "showing forth," and it is during this season when we are called to look for how God makes Godself known throughout the world. In his poem, *Epiphany*, Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann wrote the following: "We are—we could be—people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing."



Scripture

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk

by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).



Questions

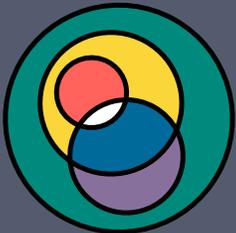
- How does John know Jesus is the Chosen One?
- Can you list all the names people called Jesus in this story? What do these names teach us about who Jesus is? (Use the Bible Story Booklet for help)
- From your own learning and experience, how would you describe Jesus?
- What are some of the names and words people use to describe you (i.e., sibling, friend, someone who always shares, someone who has a great laugh)? Can one name fully describe all the different parts of someone? Why, or why not?
- In the season of Epiphany, we focus on how God is revealed in the world. How can you help people around you learn and experience what God is like?

Look it Up!

In the cultures represented in the Bible, names were very important. Their meanings told stories, expressed beliefs, or sparked humor and good conversation. Look up the origin and meaning of your name! How might it relate to you?



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REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Coloring utensils
Paper

Whiteboard (or something to list names collaboratively)

On a piece of paper or whiteboard, list all the names Jesus was called in this story, such as Lamb of God, Chosen One, Rabbi/teacher, and Messiah. As you list them, talk through what each title means, and share the Bible story of when people used one of those names for Jesus. Feel free to list other names the participants know, such as Son of God, Bread of Life, King of Kings, etc.

Discuss why using only one of these titles wouldn't tell us everything about who Jesus is. For example, if we say Jesus is just a teacher, what are we missing? If we say Jesus is just a king, what are we missing?

Work as a group to draw a picture of Jesus with symbols for each title. For example, there could be people listening to him to show he was a teacher, and he could wear a crown to show his kingship. The different titles help us learn about Jesus as a whole person rather than just one thing or another.

On your paper, write the titles you have in your life. Maybe you are a son, a daughter, a sister, a soccer player, a student, a dancer, etc. What would someone be missing about you if they only knew about one title? Most likely, the people you are closest to know all these things about you.

Draw your own picture with symbols to represent the titles you have.

Take time to share your titles with the group or in small groups, sharing what is important to you and listening to what makes them unique.

Activity Adaptation

A witness is someone who tells a story of something that happened to them. Read through the story, and identify who the witnesses were who told others about Jesus (John, John's disciples, specifically Andrew). Who is someone in your life that tells you about God?

We can all be witnesses by telling stories of when we noticed, or felt, God in our lives. Take turns drawing pictures or telling stories of when you noticed God's love in the past week or month. It might be a story about when you felt loved and safe; it might be when something scary happened, but you realized everything turned out okay in the end.

Andrew went to his brother, Simon Peter, to tell him about Jesus. What does this tell us about how Andrew felt about Simon? Can you identify some people you could tell about Jesus? If you met Jesus, who would you tell first?



Micropractice

Sometimes people use words or names for us that we don't like. Be mindful of the words you hear about yourself. Notice how they make you feel. If the words hurt your heart, release them, and receive God's name for you: Beloved!



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illustratedministry.com/minirevAAE2



Prayer

Dear God, who teaches us about your love and life through your presence in Jesus, help us share with others about your love through our presence in their lives. Help us see how you are with us today. Amen.

LOOK,

HERE

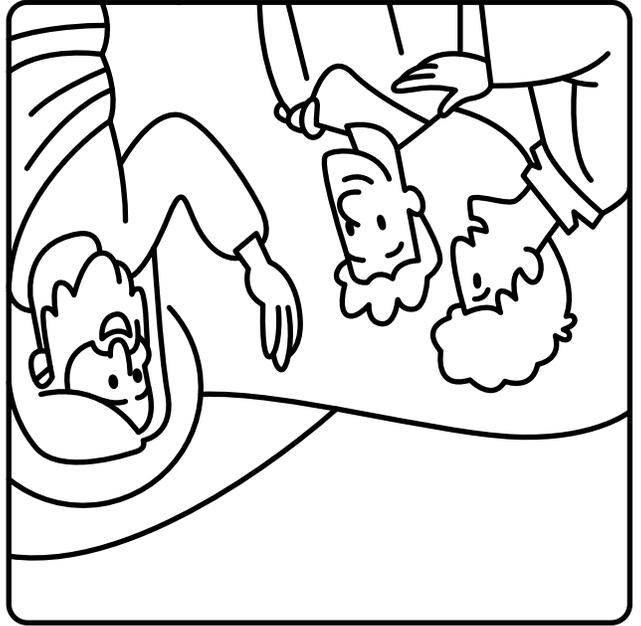
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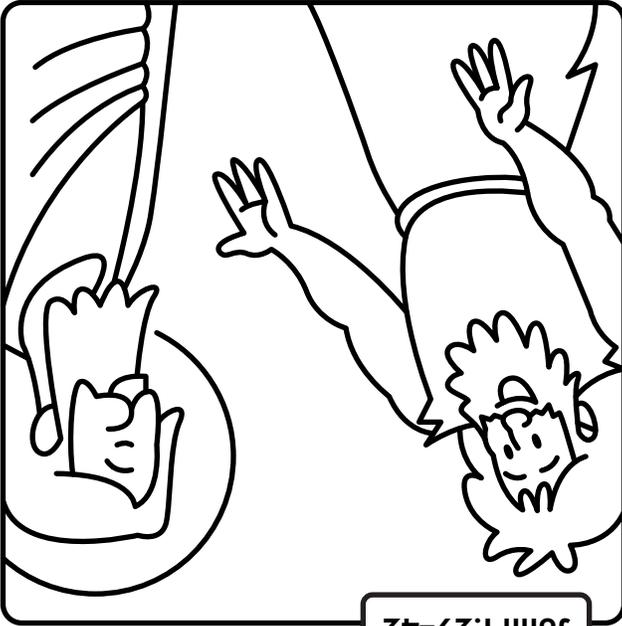
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GOD!

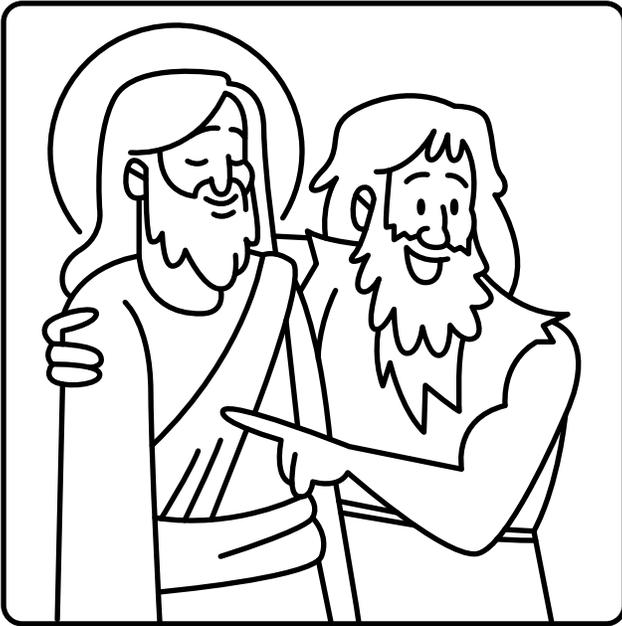
4. "Come and see," Jesus replied. As they followed Jesus to where he was staying, one of the disciples named Andrew found his brother and exclaimed, "Simon, we found the MESSIAH! Come and see!" Excited and curious, Simon came along, too.



1. After many years of baptizing with water and preparing people to meet Jesus, it finally came time for John to introduce Jesus to the world. John cried one day, "Here he is, everyone! Here is the LAMB OF GOD!"



2. "I've known Jesus since before I was born, but I didn't know he was the CHOSEN ONE until after I baptized him. While we were standing in the water, I saw this sign: God's Spirit came down and rested on him."



3. The next day, John saw Jesus and cried again, "Here is the LAMB OF GOD!" Two of John's disciples were curious, so they left to follow Jesus. As they followed, they called out, "RABBI (teacher), where are you staying?"

