

FROM **EPIPHANY** TO
TRANSFIGURATION



LECTIONARY YEAR A

12 January - 23 February 2020

SMALL GROUPS:

Intentionally transforming people in loving community!

CLASSES

(Traditionally Methodist) Are formed at the 12 o'clock service (vernacular)

HOME GROUPS

Use this study guide and meet at a home or at BMC

CONNECT GROUPS

Share fellowship whilst doing what they love e.g. a hobby or interest (Knitting/Soccer)

Small groups are the ideal place for you to:

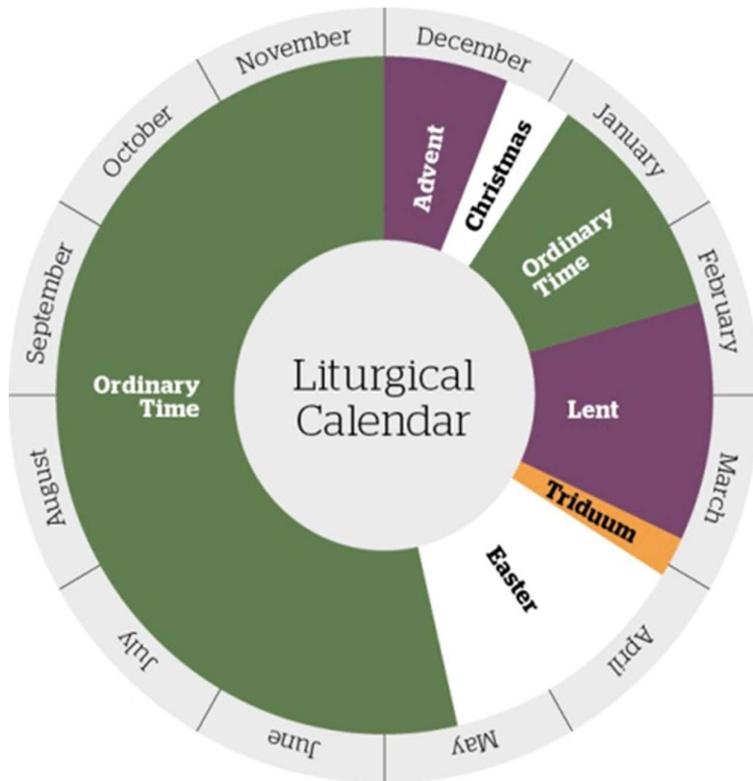
- Connect with others in life-giving fellowship,
 - Learn more about yourself and God,
 - Grow in your relationship with God,
- Hold each other accountable for your walk with Jesus,
 - Live out your spiritual gifts supported by friends,
- Make an impact whilst living out your God-given purpose.

We believe that life happens in community!

Contact Nadja to join a small group near you! nadjaa@bmc.org.za / 011 463 2333



Revised Common Lectionary: Ordinary Time: Epiphany to Transfiguration Sunday



6 January to 23 February

This booklet contains the Lectionary Readings for the week, with emphasis on the Gospels.

The daily readings expand the range of biblical readings in worship and personal devotion; they complement the Sunday readings and can help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead or help reflect and digest what was heard in worship.

All congregants are encouraged to make sermon notes on a Sunday and to join a small group for deeper discussion in the week.

Week 1: 12 January	The Baptism of Jesus
Week 2: 19 January	John testifies & his disciples follow Jesus
Week 3: 26 January	Jesus begins to preach, calls His first disciples & heals the sick
Week 4: 2 February	The Beatitudes
Week 5: 9 February	Salt and Light & The Law
Week 6: 16 February	Murder, Adultery, Divorce & Oaths
Week 7: 23 February	The Transfiguration

Readings from NIV(UK)

Epiphany

The wise men followed the star,
And found Christ who is light from light.
May you too find the Lord
when your pilgrimage is ended. (Amen)



Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi, and this Lectionary period starts on the 6th of January.



- **Monday** January 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
- **Tuesday** January 7: Psalm 72; I Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21
- **Wednesday** January 8: Psalm 72; I Kings 10:14-25; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
- **Thursday** January 9: Psalm 29; I Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9
- **Friday** January 10: Psalm 29; I Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a
- **Saturday** January 11: Psalm 29; I Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31



Week 1:12 January

The Baptism of Jesus

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵ Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'



WORDS

THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE, WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASSED

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Is God well pleased with me? How can I live my life so that God speaks these words about me; "This is my son; this is my daughter with whom I am well pleased?"



- **Monday** January 13: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48
- **Tuesday** January 14: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13
- **Wednesday** January 15: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21
- **Thursday** January 16: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12
- **Friday** January 17: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5
- **Saturday** January 18: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

OPENING:



COME AS YOU ARE – CROWDER

**SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Jesus’s baptism is the inauguration of his public ministry. When did you start your journey with God and how would you describe it thus far?
2. Immediately after Jesus’s baptism he was tempted in the desert. Has this happened to you? Do you feel that you get tempted the minute you set your heart on a Godly pursuit? Give an example of something you have tried or had to resist that received opposition.
3. The voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased”. Is God pleased with you? Why yes or no?

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.

Week 2: 19 January

John testifies & his disciples follow Jesus

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

John testifies about Jesus

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, “A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.” ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the

reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.’³² Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.’³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.”³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.’

John’s disciples follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God!’ ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, ‘What do you want?’ They said, ‘Rabbi’ (which means ‘Teacher’), ‘where are you staying?’ ³⁹ ‘Come,’ he replied, ‘and you will see.’ So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).



WORDS

I MYSELF DID NOT KNOW HIM, BUT THE REASON I CAME BAPTISING WITH WATER WAS THAT HE MIGHT BE REVEALED TO ISRAEL.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Do you remember the person/persons who pointed Jesus out to you like John did to the two disciples? Have you, like Andrew introduced someone else to Jesus?



- **Monday** January 20: Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40
- **Tuesday** January 21: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4
- **Wednesday** January 22: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17
- **Thursday** January 23: Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24
- **Friday** January 24: Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10
- **Saturday** January 25: Psalm 27:1-6; I Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32

OPENING:



NEW WINE – HILLSONG WORSHIP

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you a natural risk taker? When was the last time you tried something you have never done before?
2. When did you last “break new ground” for Jesus? What is stopping you from stepping out in faith?
3. Think of one thing you are going to do this week that will rejuvenate you in Christ and that will break ground for Jesus at the same time? Share it with your group. Keep each other accountable, and at your next meeting, before you begin with the day’s business, share what you have done that has given you new life in Christ.

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.

Week 3: 26 January

Jesus begins to preach, calls His first disciples & heals the sick

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Jesus begins to preach

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – ¹⁴to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵‘Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.’ ¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’

Jesus calls his first disciples

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



Jesus heals the sick

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people.



WORDS

COME, FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL SEND YOU TO FISH FOR PEOPLE.

QUESTION FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Is there anything you think you can or should give up in order to follow Jesus more fully?



- **Monday** January 27: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14
- **Tuesday** January 28: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18
- **Wednesday** January 29: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79
- **Thursday** January 30: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12
- **Friday** January 31: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24
- **Saturday** February 1: Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35

OPENING:



YOURS – ELEVATION WORSHIP

**SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Praise God by sharing something about His character, something He did for you in the week, or an example of His love for you.
2. Do you think people ready for Jesus to come back? Are you?

3. What do you need to change (a habit, your diary, your character) in order to be ready?

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.

Week 4: 2 February

The Beatitudes

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	I Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



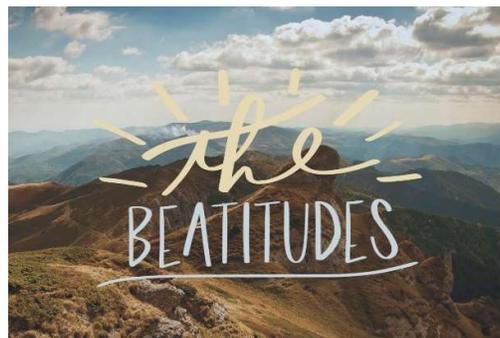
Matthew 5:1-12 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said: ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

In which area of my life do I need the Lord's blessing? Have I lived my life in a way that has blessed others?



- **Monday** February 3: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25
- **Tuesday** February 4: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6
- **Wednesday** February 5: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26
- **Thursday** February 6: Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5
- **Friday** February 7: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18
- **Saturday** February 8: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8

OPENING:



IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL – ANTHEM LIGHTS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is true happiness to you?
2. What does it mean to be “poor in Spirit”?
3. If you are poor in Spirit, what is your focus going to be in the coming week?

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.



Week 5: 9 February

Salt and Light & The Law

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Salt and light

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The fulfilment of the law

¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.



WORDS

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN.**



QUESTION FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

"A candle is a protest at midnight. It is non-conformist. It says to the darkness, 'I beg to differ.'" – Samuel Rayan.
How have you been a candle, shining the light of Christ in a dark world?

- **Monday** February 10: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10
- **Tuesday** February 11: Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
- **Wednesday** February 12: Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30
- **Thursday** February 13: Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16
- **Friday** February 14: Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17
- **Saturday** February 15: Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9

OPENING:



SALT AND LIGHT – LAUREN DAIGLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be the “salt of the earth”?
2. How does the “light” of Christians affect you?
3. Why are all the commands in the law important?
4. “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven”. What does mean? Does that mean we have to be perfect in God’s eyes?

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.



Week 6: 16 February

Murder, Adultery, Divorce & Oaths

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37



Matthew 5:21-37 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Murder

²¹ ‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, “Raca,” is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, “You fool!” will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ ‘Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ ‘Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

²⁷ ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

³¹ ‘It has been said, “Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.” ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

³³ ‘Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not break your oath, but fulfil to the Lord the oaths you have made.” ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by

Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply “Yes,” or “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.



WORDS

BUT I TELL YOU THAT ANYONE WHO IS ANGRY WITH A BROTHER OR SISTER WILL BE SUBJECT TO JUDGMENT

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Is there a time when I have passed judgment on someone? How would I feel if someone passed judgment on me?



- **Monday** February 17: Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8
- **Tuesday** February 18: Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13
- **Wednesday** February 19: Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12
- **Thursday** February 20: Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7
- **Friday** February 21: Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28
- **Saturday** February 22: Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13

OPENING:



THERE IS A CLOUD – ELEVATION WORSHIP

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of words that describes what anger does to your body.
2. What is your default reaction when you are angry? In which areas of your life do you struggle with anger?
3. What happens to us and our relationship with God when we are angry with others?
4. What do you protect yourself when you are tempted to sin?



End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.

Week 7: 23 February

The Transfiguration

Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Transfiguration Sunday	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9



Matthew 17:1-9 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The transfiguration

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'



THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASED. LISTEN TO HIM

QUESTION FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Have you listened to Jesus lately? What did he have to say to you? Have you been obedient to his words?



- **Monday** February 24: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
- **Tuesday** February 25: Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
- **Wednesday** February 26: Ash Wednesday

- **Thursday** February 27: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
- **Friday** February 28: Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
- **Saturday** February 29: Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7

OPENING:



AMAZING GRACE - MARANATHA



1. Imagine you were on that mountain; how would you have felt? What would you have done and said?
2. Read the “key word”. At this stage in Jesus’s ministry, why do you think it was important for Jesus to hear those words from his father?
3. What was more important - Jesus’ identity or his activity?
4. How do you think the transfiguration affected the Disciples? How does it affect your life today?

End your time together in prayer – be specific – write down what you pray for and give feedback next week.

SOURCES CONSULTED

www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily

www.biblehub.com

www.bible.com

www.bible.org.com

IMAGES: Google Images

BIBLES: Life Application Bible, Serendipity Bible
Gateway (NIVUK) version used

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