

From EPIPHANY to the TRANSFIGURATION

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



Week 3
23 - 29 January 2022

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Epiphany to Transfiguration (6 Jan – 27 Feb)

Week 3	23 January	Jesus rejected in Nazareth
Week 4:	30 January	Scripture is fulfilled
Week 5:	6 February	Jesus calls His first disciples
Week 6:	13 February	Blessings and woes
Week 7:	20 February	Love for enemies and judging others
Week 8:	27 February	The Transfiguration



Week 3

23 January JESUS REJECTED IN NAZARETH

Epiphany Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Jesus rejected in Nazareth	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21



Praise and Worship:

Spirit of the Lord is upon me: https://youtu.be/AfT4mcE_XJg

GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21 (New International Version – UK)

Jesus rejected at Nazareth

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

Reflection

REFLECTION

On the Scripture by: Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi

There is an English saying that “If the person does not know where they are going they end up anywhere”. Any human being with no sense and understanding of their mission and purpose on earth, such a person is in a state of tragedy and disaster. What do we live for if we cannot explicitly express our purpose and mission? How do we contribute meaningfully to ongoing development of the world, society and communities around us if we do not know our mission and purpose? No one is an accident. We are not in this planet earth by mistake. Each one God has divinely bestowed upon them a purpose to carry out on earth, to fulfill and impact the world.

Luke's gospel introduces us to Christ kingdom mission and purpose on earth which he had to fulfill in three years of his ministry. The key elements of his mission statement are “good news to the poor, freedom for the oppressed, jubilee of the lord”. For Christ to fulfill God's kingdom vision he needed to know exactly what his mission on earth is, this is important in that it gives a sense of direction and purpose. Moreover, it informs how Jesus will relate to people. He will relate to them as the one who comes to liberate and not exploit, to heal and not to harm, to transform their lives and not make them stagnant. The interface of Jesus Mission statement propagates a clear agenda of his interaction with other human beings. He will stand for justice, promote equality among human counterparts, also strive for an egalitarian society where there is equal access to resources, and sharing of resources.

There is so much that we can learn from Jesus' mission statement. Firstly, it is not centered on his own interests but the interests of others. It is the Jesus way to put others first, to care about the needs of others and respond to them accordingly. It is sad to note that in today's world people only care about their own needs, egocentricity is at the center of everything. Doing things for others is seen as a waste of time. It is all about self-benefit, self-development, self-promotion, and nothing to do with others. Jesus challenges the prevalence of the culture of self-centeredness and selfishness, this is explicitly encapsulated in his words “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor”

Secondly the spirit of the Lord is the center of influence in everything `Christ does, he listens and follows to the spirit. It is a lesson to us that those whose spirit is upon them ought to act in response to the promptings of the spirit. The power to do all these things does not depend on individuals' strength.

QUESTIONS

Small Group Questions:

1. What is your mission statement?
2. Do you follow your mission statement and how often do you apply it?
3. What do you make of Jesus words in Luke 4:18-19?
4. How can we change the prevailing culture of focusing on self and not care about others?



Daily Bible reading, memory verse and prayer:

MONDAY, January 24, 2022: [Psalm 119:89-96](#); [Jeremiah 36:1-10](#); [1 Corinthians 14:1-12](#)

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:90 *“Your faithfulness continues through all generations you established the earth, and it endures”.*

Prayer: God the father, Son and Holy Spirit bestow upon us wisdom to discern your presence in our lives. You were faithful to former generations, and you shall continue to be even in our time. **Amen**

TUESDAY, January 25, 2022: [Psalm 119:89-96](#); [Jeremiah 36:11-26](#); [2 Corinthians 7:2-12](#)

Memory Verse: 2 Cor 7:5-6 *“For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. ⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus”.*

Prayer: Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, you know the depths of our hearts and the troubles we are facing. Our hope is in you `lord for comfort and strength. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, January 26, 2022: [Psalm 119:89-96](#); [Jeremiah 36:27-32](#); [Luke 4:38-44](#)

Memory Verse: Luke 4:43 *“But he said, ‘I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent’”.*

Prayer: God of love, source of life, and light of the world. We pray that your abundant love can reach through the ends of the world through the proclamation of your gospel. **Amen**

THURSDAY, January 27, 2022: [Psalm 71:1-6](#); [2 Chronicles 34:1-7](#); [Acts 10:44-48](#)

Memory Verse: Psalm 71:5 *“For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth”.*

Prayer: God of yesterday, today and tomorrow look upon us with your grace and redeem us from the dungeons of this world. You were faithful to us during trying and difficult times, you are faithful today and you shall be tomorrow”. **Amen**

FRIDAY, January 28, 2022: [Psalm 71:1-6](#); [2 Chronicles 35:20-27](#); [Acts 19:1-10](#)

Memory Verse: Acts 19:2 *“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*

Prayer: Gracious God and source of our life we come to you in trust and confidence. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to empower, sustain and protect us. **Amen**

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022: [Psalm 71:1-6](#); [2 Chronicles 36:11-21](#); [John 1:43-51](#)

Memory Verse: *1 Chronicles 36:14 “Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the Lord, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem”*

Prayer: Merciful and compassionate God we have sinned against you and each other. We confess our shortcomings, frailties, unfaithfulness and sinfulness. Have mercy on us. **Amen.**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 23 January Week 3

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

Activity/Family Moment: The bible race.

Each person needs a bible. If you don't have enough bibles, form teams.
Look up the following bible verses.

Prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14

Psalms 40:6-8

Isaiah 6:9-10

Isaiah 40:3-4

Isaiah 53:3

Fulfilment

Luke 1:35

Hebrews 10:5-10

Matthew 13:13-15

John 1:23

Luke 4:28-29

Notice a few things. The prophecies were in the Old Testament. They were fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament. Here is a very clear reason as to why the Old Testament is still very relevant.
By fulfilling the prophecies Jesus proves that he is the Messiah.

Jesus's story reveals God's incredible love for us. Throughout the Old Testament, we discover how incredibly detailed God's plan for rescuing us was—now, we can all be reunited to God through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.

As a family you can discuss what you think of God's plan in the Old Testament.

- Do you as a family have a plan? For example, maybe the parents decided to get married and start a family before a certain date.
- Or maybe you plan family holidays at a certain time every year.
- Talk about how much preparation it takes before the fulfilment can happen.
- Once the fulfilment has taken place talk about how it feels, was there a sense of accomplishment etc.