



Following are 4 simple lessons based on the lectionary for January. Some are from the past few weeks and others are still to come. You can do them at your own pace, anytime during the season of Epiphany which continues until Lent.

Be sure to do the simple activities and bring your “cut-outs” to church as you finish them to help fill up the Epiphany board in the Narthex (will be out through February). Please just let me (Julie) know if you need hardcopies of any (or all) pages printed for you.

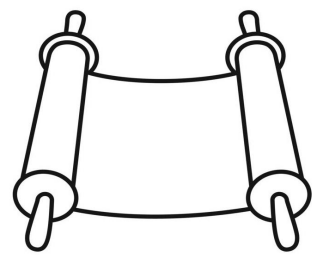
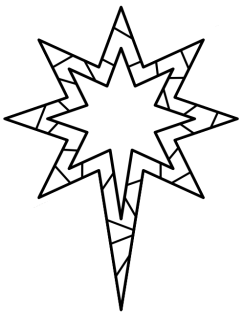
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THE 3RD AND 4TH SUNDAYS AFTER EPIPHANY

ACTIVITY PAGES





THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

This day is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on January 6th. It is the day we remember the Wisemen (or Magi) who followed a star that led them to Jesus. They knew this star was a sign from God that a king had been born. When they found this “King”, the baby Jesus, they worshiped him and gave him gifts.

READ

You can read the story of the Magi in the bible, Matthew 2:1-12
OR in the Spark Story Bible on pages 218-223

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. The Magi noticed something in nature that led them to Jesus... What beautiful or amazing parts of nature make you think of God?
2. God sends us star-like people in our lives who help show us the ways of Jesus by caring for us and teaching us how to love one another. Who in your life has been star-like in this way?

ACTIVITY

Color or decorate the STAR on the activity pages.
Write your answer from question 2 on your star.
Cut it out and bring it to church the next time you come.
Place it on the special Epiphany board in the Narthex.

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

This season in our liturgical church calendar continues until Lent. The word Epiphany means... when you **see or understand something new in a clear way** or it is when something is **revealed, recognized, or discovered**. If you pay attention, you will notice these “Epiphany” words and phrases in bold appear several times in the following lessons.

The star the wisemen followed gave them light and allowed them to **discover** Jesus. Through Jesus’ life on earth, God was **revealed** to all humans. So, in this season of Epiphany the Gospel stories focus on how God **reveals** light, hope, and love through Jesus. They are stories of people **recognizing** Jesus as God... first the Magi, then John the Baptist, the Disciples and others.



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

On Sunday, January 9 the Gospel reading was about the day Jesus was Baptized by John the Baptist. While John is baptizing Jesus in the river God *reveals* who Jesus is...

The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove and God says,
"This is my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Just like God knew his Son, God has always known you, even before you were born. And we too are blessed with the Holy Spirit when we are baptized (even though we don't actually see a dove!). In Baptism the Pastor says your name aloud (like God announced his Son), makes the sign of the cross on your head, and says the words "You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

READ

You can read the story of Jesus' baptism in the bible, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
OR in the Spark Story Bible pages 242-245

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus was baptized, God said he was pleased with his son, meaning Jesus brought him great joy... what is something special about you that brings God joy?
2. Ask your parents to tell you something special about the name they gave you.

ACTIVITY

Color or decorate the DOVE on the activity pages.
Write your name and draw a cross on it to remind you that
God knows YOU by name and has blessed you with his Holy Spirit.
Cut it out and bring it to church the next time you come.
Place it on the special Epiphany board in the Narthex.



January 16th

THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The Gospel reading for this day is about Jesus' first miracle. It marks the beginning of his ministry, when he began to teach... and instead of being in front of a classroom, like your teachers, or at the front of a church, like our Pastor, he was at a wedding party. His lesson comes from performing a miracle there. When they ran out of wine at the party, Jesus' mother asked him to help. So, Jesus ended up turning 6 jars of water into really good wine. Through this miracle something special was *revealed* about Jesus... it caused his disciples and others *to see him clearly in a new way*, they *recognized* him even more as being God's son. Jesus didn't just turn the water into any kind of wine but the very best kind of wine. He wanted his family and friends to have the very best just like he wants the best for us. This miracle shows us that God's love and grace are more than enough, these gifts from God are overflowing just like the jars of wine.

READ

You can read the story of Jesus turning water into wine in the bible, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
OR in the Spark Story Bible pages 410-415

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when someone shared the best kind of something with you? How did it make you feel?
2. Jesus was always blessing others with his miracles. We can't perform miracles, but how might you bless someone to make sure they have enough?

ACTIVITY

Color or decorate the JAR on the activity pages.
Write one thing on it that you have more than enough of in your life.
Cut it out and bring it to church the next time you come.
Place it on the special Epiphany board in the Narthex.



January
23 and 30

THE 3rd and 4th SUNDAYS AFTER EPIPHANY

The Gospel readings for these 2 Sundays are one story divided into 2 weeks. In our past Gospel stories, we learned about Jesus being baptized (God *revealed* Jesus as his son) and about Jesus' first miracle (God's greatness was *revealed* through this miracle). After this, Jesus began teaching in many synagogues (places of worship). He even went to the synagogue in the village of Nazareth where he grew up. There, he read from a scroll. In those times they didn't have books, they read from many different rolls of paper that had verses carefully written on them. This scroll Jesus read from was the book of Isaiah. The specific verses he read that day were about God sending someone very special to love, heal and bring good news to all. When Jesus finished reading, he told them that what they just heard was actually happening right then... he was the special one being described in the verses! Through this reading, more was *revealed* about Jesus being the Son of God, but not everyone *recognized* this or *saw clearly* that what he said about the reading was true and they told him to leave. This did not stop Jesus! He knew what God wanted him to do, so in many other places he continued to teach and show people about God's love.

READ

You can read this story about Jesus reading from the scroll in the bible, Luke 4:14-30
OR in the Spark Story Bible pages 252-253

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus knew what he was supposed to do... are there things you are supposed to do at your house or for your family?
2. What is something new you can do to be a part of the continuing work of God?

ACTIVITY

Color or decorate the SCROLL on the activity pages.
Write on it something you have done that is part of God's work.
Cut it out and bring it to church the next time you come.
Place it on the special Epiphany board in the Narthex.

