

## Second Sunday after Epiphany – year A

---

### Preparation

---

Read [John 1:29-42](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/epipha2.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/johnbaptist.htm>

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/eye\\_witness.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/eye_witness.htm)

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/john.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi2mles.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/a/2-a/A-2-a.html>

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452\\_115820\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115820_ENG_HTML.htm)

### Gathering

---

#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Baby name book

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**Learning new things, we walk with God;  
Loving new ways, we walk with Jesus;  
Looking for hope, we walk with the Spirit. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they know what their names mean (*wait for their response*). Bring out the baby name book and look up one of the children's names and tell the whole group what their name means. Tell as many of the children as you have time for what their name means. Explain to the children that our names are special – they are one of the first things given to us by our parents. They tell others who we are. In today's story they are going to hear a couple of different names for Jesus and they are going to hear about someone who follows Jesus and is given a new name.

## Story Time

---

### Materials

- poster from previous week
- lamb image at the end of the lesson
- scissors
- wall tack or tape

### Instructions

- Copy the lamb image at the end of the lesson and cut it out. Place it near the poster with the wall tack or tape. With the children get comfortable to hear the story.
- Teach the children the following chant to be used in the story:

**There is Jesus,  
There is Jesus,  
The Lamb of God!**

John the Baptist knew something important had happened when he had baptised Jesus in the river Jordan (point to the dove image on the poster). He was telling everyone he met about what had happened. John was telling everyone that God was doing something wonderful for them.

One day he saw Jesus walking by and John pointed him out to his friends. John said, “Here is the Lamb of God. The one whom I have been speaking about. The one who has come from God to save the world. Jesus is the one I baptized and I saw the Holy Spirit coming down on him like a dove.”

**There is Jesus,  
There is Jesus,  
The Lamb of God!**

On another day John saw Jesus going by. Again he said, “Look there is the Lamb of God”.

Two of John’s friends decided to follow Jesus. Jesus turned around and saw them. He said to them, “What are you looking for?”

They said to Jesus, “Teacher where are you staying?”

Jesus said to them, “Come and see.”

**There is Jesus,  
There is Jesus,  
The Lamb of God!**

*They went with Jesus and stayed with him the rest of the day. One of them was named Andrew. Now Andrew had a brother named Simon. Andrew went to find Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah – the Son of God.”*

There is Jesus,  
There is Jesus,  
The Lamb of God!

Simon decided to go with Andrew to meet Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are now to be called Peter, which means rock.”

**There is Jesus,  
There is Jesus,  
The Lamb of God!**

*Point out the poster to the children. Explain that each week that they are going to add a symbol (an object that reminds us of something) to the poster. Bring out the lamb. Ask the children why we put a lamb on for today? To remind us of what John the Baptist had to say about Jesus – that we need to follow him. Have one of the children tape it onto the poster over the water.*

## Response

---

### Project Idea 1: Name Poster

*This response will be a way for the children to share in the experience of following Jesus.*

#### Materials needed

- construction paper
- markers
- magazines
- scissors
- glue
- any other craft materials that may be useful

#### Instructions

On the bottom of the construction paper print with a marker ‘**A follower of Jesus**’. Do one for each child. Give each child a prepared piece of construction paper. Have one of the readers read what is printed at the bottom of the page. Have the children using a marker print their names at the top of the construction paper – younger children may need help with this. Have them look through the magazines and cut out pictures that describe how they can follow Jesus. Get them to glue their chosen pictures onto the construction paper to make a collage out of them. When they are done and if you have time have each child choose one picture on their poster to talk about with their friends. Encourage the children to put up their posters at home so as to remind them about being a follower of Jesus.

### Project Idea 2: Name Headbands

*This response will be a way for younger children, especially, to connect their names with being a follower of Jesus.*

#### Materials needed

- poster board
- scissors
- stapler with staples
- markers
- glue
- glitter
- stickers
- ribbon, yarn and anything else that might work to decorate a head band

#### Instructions

Cut the poster board so that it is 8 cm wide along the long side of it. Make enough so that you have two pieces for each child. Staple them together. Give each child a prepared piece and invite them to print their name and then the following across the middle part of their headband:

**'A follower of Jesus'**. Have them put the strip on their heads and staple them together so that it forms a snug headband for them. Cut off the extra piece of poster board, if any is left. Show the children the materials for decorating their headbands and invite them to decorate as they wish. Once they are done have everyone put on their headbands and show off for each other. Remind the children that we are all called to be followers of Jesus and they might want to put on their headbands regularly to help them remember that.

### **Project Idea 3: Lamb of God pins**

*These pins will be a way for the children to share the message of today's Bible story with their families.*

#### **Materials needed**

- lamb image at end of lesson
- card stock
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- ribbons
- tape
- large safety pins

#### **Instructions**

Copy the lamb image at the end of the lesson and cut them out – make one for each child. Cut 8 cm diameter circles out of the card stock – make one for each child. Give each child a prepared circle and lamb. Have them colour in the lamb with the markers and then glue it onto the circle. If there is room print on the pin **'I am a follower of the Lamb of God'**. Invite the children to cut some ribbons and glue or tape the ribbons on to the pin to decorate it. When they are done help them to pin them onto their clothes with a large safety pin. Invite the children to explain their pins to their families and tell them who the Lamb of God is – Jesus.

## **Closing**

---

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for being with us;  
Thank you Jesus for loving us;  
Thank you Spirit for leading us. Amen.**

## Image of a lamb

---

