

Second Sunday after Epiphany – year B

Preparation

Read the Gospel [John 1:43-51](#) over. 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/yearb/epiphb2.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115890_ENG_HTML.htm

http://www.sermons4kids.com/knows_you_by_name.htm

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwjj.htm#ep02>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- White candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small bowl of water

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:

Light of the world, shine on us, *(point to the candle)*
Water of the world, refresh us, *(point to the water)*
Word of the world, teach us, *(point to the Bible)*
Loving God, be with us in all that we do. Amen.

Blow out the candle. With the children get them to list up on the newsprint all the people they can think of who know them by name (this may take a few minutes, so be patient and get as many as you can). Now ask them what happens when someone calls them by name that they do not recognize. How do they react? What are they feeling? Take some time to get their responses. Explain that in today's story Jesus calls someone by name who is not sure what to do right away. Ask them to listen carefully.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions

Jesus knew that it was time to start gathering some people to learn about the way that God wanted them to be in the world. He decided to go to Galilee. He already had Simon Peter and Andrew with him.

The first person that Jesus found was Philip. He says to Philip, “Follow me.”

Philip was from the same town as Andrew and Simon Peter, Bethsaida. He was very happy to see his friends. He was very happy to see Jesus. He was happy that Jesus called him by name. He knew that God was calling him to do something special with Jesus. He decided to follow Jesus and join his friends.

Philip went looking for his friend Nathanael. He wanted to share with Nathanael the news about Jesus. Philip said, “Nathanael, we have found the one that the Bible talks about. The one that Moses and the prophets have spoken about. It is Jesus of Nazareth.”

Nathanael looked at his friend and wondered what Philip was talking about. He said to Philip, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Philip decided that he wouldn’t explain too much about Jesus to Nathanael. He just said to his friend, “Come and see for yourself.”

Nathanael decided he would go with Philip and check this Jesus out. When Jesus saw Nathanael with Philip, he knew that Nathanael was one of the ones that he wanted to be part of his work. Jesus said, “Here is one who is without deceit. The most honest person in all of Israel.”

Nathanael looked at Jesus. He said to Jesus, “How do you know me? I don’t remember meeting you before.”

Jesus answered Nathanael in an interesting way. He said, “I saw you sitting under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Nathanael was shocked and filled with wonder. He looked at Jesus and cried out, “Teacher, you are the Son of God! You are the one who is come to save Israel!”

Jesus was surprised by Nathanael’s response. Jesus told Nathanael and all the others with him, “Do you believe in me because I told you about seeing you sitting under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than that.”

Jesus knew greater things were coming and that they should be prepared for them. Jesus told Nathanael that he would see the heavens open up. Jesus said, “You will see the angels of God going up and down on the Son of God.”

At this point Jesus, Simon Peter, Andrew, Philip and Nathanael went with Jesus on the next part of his journey.

Response

Project Idea 1: Fig Leaf Name Picture

In the story one of Jesus' disciples was surprised by how much Jesus knew about him; as a way to remember that the children can make these pictures that shown they are known by Jesus.

Materials needed

- fig leaf picture at end of lesson
- green construction paper
- markers
- glitter
- scissors

Instructions

Make a copy of the fig leaf picture and cut it out. Trace onto the green construction paper, so that each child has one leaf. Have the children cut out their fig leaf. Print up on the newsprint where they can see it the following: **"Jesus knows I am..."** Ask the children to copy that on the leaf and instead of the dots to print their names. Let them decorate their leaves with the glitter and markers. If you have time you may want to let them glue their leaves onto another piece of construction paper. Encourage them to share the story of Jesus knowing Nathanael with their families.

Project Idea 2: Fig Leaf Name Wreath

The children can share their being called by name with others in the parish by doing this group activity.

Materials needed

- fig leaf picture at end of lesson
- construction paper
- markers
- glue picture
- scissors

Instructions

Make a copy of the fig leaf picture and cut it out. Trace onto the green construction paper, so that each child has one leaf. Have the children cut out their fig leaf. Have them trace one of their hands onto another piece of construction paper in a different colour. Have them cut out their hand tracing. Have the children write their own names on their hands and the name of someone who they know who has answered God's call on the fig leaf. Together as a group overlap the fig leaves and hands, so that you have a fig leaf and then a hand, to form a circular wreath with them. Attach the leaves and hands together using the glue. Put up the wreath in a place where others in the church can see it and be reminded that God knows us all by name.

Project Idea 3: Prayer Wall

This will be an ongoing activity for the season after Epiphany. Each week the children will add new prayers to the walls using a symbol from the story that will be identified for you. This activity will be a good way to reinforce the learning from the stories that they will participate in.

Materials needed

- fig leaf picture at end of lesson
- green construction paper
- scissors
- glue sticks
- markers

Instructions

Make a copy of the fig leaf picture and cut it out. Trace onto green construction paper, so that each child has one leaf to use. Have the children cut out their fig leaf. Invite them to consider the story of Jesus calling Nathanael by his own name. Invite them to think of people they know who have answered God's call to follow Jesus. Have them write the names onto the fig leaf and then attach them to the prayer wall. Help the children who need it to write the names of the people that they have chosen on their fig leaf. Encourage the children to remember the people in their prayers during the week.

Closing

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

**As we leave this place, God be with us,
As we leave this place, Jesus be with us,
As we leave this place, Spirit be with us.
Amen.**

Fig Leaf Picture

