

JANUARY 25, 2015
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking+ faith home

Jesus calls us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls disciples at the sea
Monday	Genesis 12:1-9	God calls Abram
Tuesday	Genesis 45:25 - 46:7	God calls Jacob
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1:4-10	God calls Jeremiah
Thursday	Mark 3:13-19	Jesus appoints the twelve
Friday	1 Corinthians 7:17-24	Live the life assigned to you
Saturday	Psalms 46	We will not fear
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus casts out an evil spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fishers of people!”
Matthew 4:19 (ISV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to always put you first in the ways we use and enjoy your gifts. Amen. (Mark 1:18, 1 Corinthians 7:31)

Mealtime Prayer:

For food and drink, house and home, we thank you God, you give them all. May we hear your voice and follow your call. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be your king and help you to follow his Son. Amen. (Mark 1:15-17)

JANUARY 25, 2015
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking+ faith home

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is the difference between being a leader and being a follower? In what ways are you a leader? In what ways are you a follower?
- Jesus invited Simon, Andrew, James and John to be his followers. What was their response?
- How do you show that you are a follower of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

In your home devotional times this week, pray for people who do not know and follow Jesus. Cut out enough fish shapes for each person in your household from paper or card stock and make a list of the names on each. Pray for each of the people on the list. Encourage each household member to carry their fish with them during the week as a reminder to pray.

SERVICE

Simon, Andrew, James and John left their jobs as fishermen to follow Jesus. They were now to be “fishers of people.” Following Jesus sometimes means sacrificing, giving up or sharing our earthly goods and money to share his love and good news with others. Decide together on a special sacrifice or an act of giving or sharing you can make as a household this week in the name of Jesus.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For many centuries, the fish has been an important Christian symbol. In times of the early church, it was dangerous to be known as a Christian in some parts of the Roman Empire; so believers developed a code language to reveal their faith to others who were Christian. A Christian would draw on the ground the upper half of a fish symbol. If the other persons was a Christian they would recognize this and add a second curved line to complete the drawing of a fish.

- Place the fish symbol in different parts of your home to symbolize your faith in Jesus.
- Go on a “chalk walk” in your local community. Use chalk to draw the fish symbol on sidewalks in your neighborhood. When you do so, pray for the people who work or live nearby, that they may live with faith in Jesus.
- Come up with your own household code language to symbolize your faith in Jesus.