

JANUARY 21, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus calls us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls disciples
Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Live without anxiety in daily life
Wednesday	Genesis 12:1-9	God calls Abram
Thursday	Mark 3:13-19	Jesus appoints the twelve
Friday	1 Corinthians 7:17-24	Live the life assigned to you
Saturday	Psalms 62:5-12	God is powerful and kind
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
Mark 1:17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you who call us to follow you, we thank you for your steadfast love that gives us the courage and the faith to follow. Amen.

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 the God who calls you to follow Jesus be your mighty rock, and your protection, now and always. (Mark 1:17 and Psalm 62:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lead Me, Guide Me



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home 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?
- In Mark 1:16-20, Simon, Andrew, James, and John respond immediately to Jesus' call to follow him. What does this story say about Jesus' power to call us?
- In the book of Jonah, Jonah did not want to preach repentance as God had directed him to do, so at first he ran away from God's call. What does Jonah's experience teach us about God's power, grace, and mercy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 62:5-12 in the style of *lectio divina* (divine reading).

This is a psalm of trust in God's power and steadfast love. Read the verses slowly twice, then pause to reflect on a word or phrase that stands out for you. Focus on that word or phrase for an extended time. What might be the significance of that word or phrase for you today? Read it again and wonder how this text may guide your life in the days ahead.

Pray: Read it a final time as a prayer, and conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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 earthly goods to share Jesus' love and good news with others. Decide on an act of giving or sharing you can do this week as a way to promote the message and work of Christ for the sake of the world.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fish is an important Christian symbol. Each letter in the Greek spelling of the word "fish" (ΙΧΘΥΣ) begins a Greek word that stands for "Jesus Christ God Son Savior." During the early church, it was dangerous to be a Christian in some parts of the Roman Empire. Believers developed a code to reveal their faith to others who were Christian. One person would draw on the ground the upper half of a fish symbol. If the other person was a Christian, they would recognize this and add a second curve line to complete the drawing of a fish. 

- Practice making the fish symbol with others by having two people make curved lines to create the fish symbol.
- Place the fish design in different parts of your home to symbolize and remind you of your faith in Jesus.
- Pray for those who live in places today where it is dangerous to be a Christian.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org