

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**For Group Meetings from January 7 through January 13**

**Prayer of the Day:** Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:**

**Share:** How did last week's scripture (Mark 1:4-11) work in your life?

**Mission:** What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? ***How did inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to?***

**Hear:** John 1:43-51

**Explore Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

1. The beginning of John's gospel is concerned with Jesus' identity. What are all the ways this passage identifies Jesus' divinity?
2. When Nathanael was invited to "come and see," how was he pre-judging Jesus and how did Jesus transform Nathanael's perceptions?
3. How was Jesus' simple invitation to Philip contagious? How did it change both Philip and Nathanael?

**Connect Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

4. How have you experienced Jesus' invitation "follow me"? Where have you been invited to "come and see" by another person and where did that lead you?
5. How might our judgments and prejudices prevent us from following where Jesus might be leading us or even from inviting others to come and see? What encourages you to be more open?
6. Nathanael experienced Jesus in person when Philip invited him to come and see. What is one thing you could do to help another person experience Christ through you this week?

**Prepare:** Memorize this verse: *"<sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!""* (John 1:49). How do you hear God calling you?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

**Obey:** During this week follow through on your intentions.

**Meditate:** Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-How does this speak into your life?

**Reflect:** What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

**OUR MISSION TOGETHER:** As a missional congregation we celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and equip them to serve in a broken world.

**Notes for ChristCare leaders:**

Just like Mark, John doesn't include any birth narrative or childhood vignettes from Jesus' life. He starts at the beginning of time and declares that the world was created through the eternal Word, who was the Son of God sent to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. He spends a lot of energy on making sure we know who Jesus is, what Jesus does, and how we know him. Our studies together help us to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, so we can invite others into a relationship with him. We can do that by the way we live our lives serving and loving and also through direct invitation to church, Bible study, a church picnic, etc. All we do personally as members of Desert Cross and as a community is always broadcasting who we are as a people who follow Jesus and what that means to us and to the world. May we be able to overcome our prejudgments and fears of those who are different from us, so we can be as open and willing to invite others into the journey as Philip. May we be as flexible as Nathanael to listen to Jesus and his reassuring words of acceptance, forgiveness, and salvation, so we might be changed by him and confident in our faith that his promises were, are and always will be the one thing we can count on no matter where we are or what we are doing! Now that is news worth sharing!

**Thanks be to God,  
Pastor Andrea  
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Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those  
Who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead,  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.  
  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen