

**Third Sunday after Epiphany
For Group Meetings from Jan 14 – Jan 20**

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (John 1:43-51) 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: Mark 1:14-20

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

1. What was the good news that Jesus proclaimed?
2. In what ways did Simon and Andrew, James and John "repent and believe?"
3. What did following Jesus require of the first disciples? What did they give up? What did they gain?

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

4. What do you need to say "no" to today in order to say "yes" to Jesus? Has that changed over time?
5. What kind of good news do you think the world needs to hear today? What does fishing for people look like today?
6. What are the challenges to faith for you personally and for those you know who are seeking or struggling? What are the joys? What makes following Jesus worth the risk and the struggle?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: *"And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."* (Mark 1:17). How do you hear God calling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Jonah 3:1-5, 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:

Jesus brings good news right after the bad news of John's arrest hits the press. The good news of God's love for people, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life brought hope to people who were oppressed and struggling with trying to earn their own salvation and struggle against the powers of their oppressors. In today's world, we are called like the first disciples to bring good news to struggling people. Jesus' good news of love, mercy, and forgiveness is just as good today as it was 2000 years ago in our context. We still need to hear about weakness as power, love as strength, service as joy, and peace as our only hope as a counter-cultural message that rises above the current messages we receive about how to live as winners take all and no mercy for those different from us. Jesus' good news is simple but the most powerful news we can ever hear, believe, and share. It is up to us to contextualize that good news so that it is most effective for those who need to hear it today. May God help us personally and as a community to find creative and new ways to risk sharing the good news so others may hear the call to repent and believe and to trust in Jesus through faith.

**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