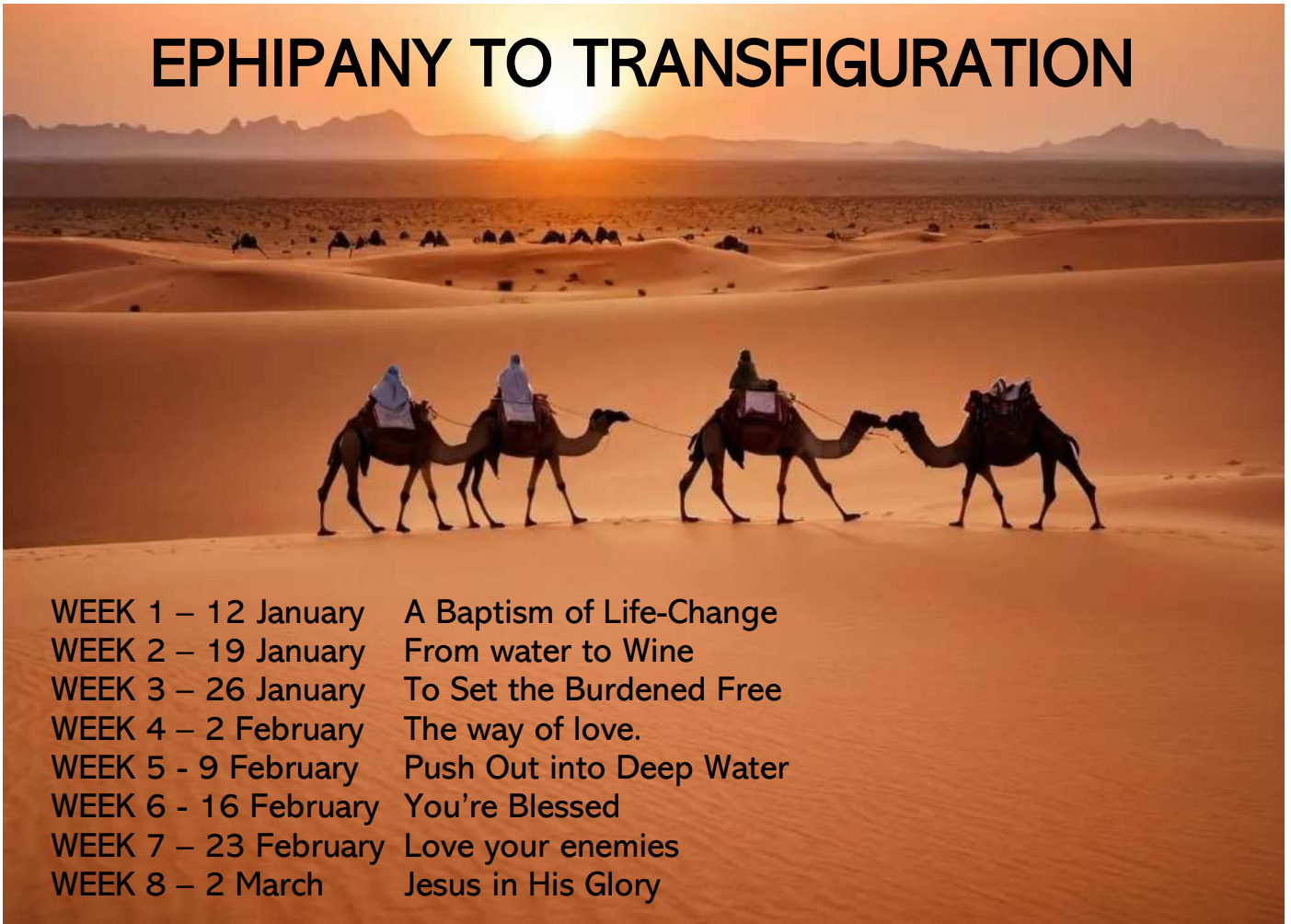
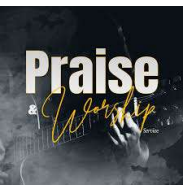


EPHIPANY TO TRANSFIGURATION



WEEK 1 – 12 January	A Baptism of Life-Change
WEEK 2 – 19 January	From water to Wine
WEEK 3 – 26 January	To Set the Burdened Free
WEEK 4 – 2 February	The way of love.
WEEK 5 - 9 February	Push Out into Deep Water
WEEK 6 - 16 February	You're Blessed
WEEK 7 – 23 February	Love your enemies
WEEK 8 – 2 March	Jesus in His Glory

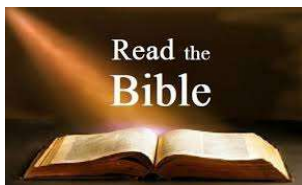
We welcome you joining us on the Liturgy journey from Epiphany to Transfiguration Sunday. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church are on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.



Here I Am to Worship | Maranatha! Music (Lyric Video)

<https://youtu.be/O3G52K9X2hQ>

WEEK 6 - 16 FEBRUARY You're Blessed



Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Luke 6:17-26 The Message

You're *Blessed*

17-21 Coming down off the mountain with them, he stood on a plain surrounded by disciples and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all over Judea and Jerusalem, even from the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke: You're blessed when you've lost it all. God's kingdom is there for the finding. You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry. Then you're ready for the Messianic meal. You're blessed when the tears flow freely. Joy comes with the morning. *22-23* "Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out,

every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—skip like a lamb, if you like! —for even though they don't like it, I do... and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

Give Away Your Life

²⁴ But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made. What you have is all you'll ever get. ²⁵ And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself. Your self will not satisfy you for long. And it's trouble ahead if you think life's all fun and games. There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it. ²⁶ "There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests—look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.



Monday, February 17: Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34;

Tuesday, February 18: Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19;

Wednesday, February 19: Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52;

Thursday, February 20: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11;

Friday, February 21: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17;

Saturday, February 22: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59;



This week was written by:
Rev Zamani Sikupela

The simple, and summarized message of Jeremiah chapter 17 verses 5-10 is that there are just two kinds of people in the world – *the cursed* and *the blessed*, and the difference is whom they trust. When we trust in the Lord, we are blessed. When we turn away from the Lord, we are cursed.

From Psalm 1, we learn that happiness results from our choice to follow God's direction of life. The writer sets forth two ways – one is the right way that leads to happiness, and the other is the wrong way that leads to misery.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15:12-20) drives the whole concept of resurrection. The debate over resurrection of the dead had been going on for a long time. It was a major point of contention between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Paul insists on two options: Either Jesus was resurrected, or He wasn't. If Christ had not been resurrected, then nobody else would be either. And that would also mean that Christianity was a lie, and all preaching was in vain. If there is no resurrection, there is no living in Christ. Paul then declares the truth: Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead, and all believers will follow Him into eternal life after their deaths.

Luke 6:17-26 is the well-known Jesus' sermon: The poor are blessed. "*Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God*". I can imagine that this was a shocking teaching by Jesus. Are the poor blessed? How? In what sense? Is it not the rich and powerful that God smiles upon? We all want to be rich for we believe that is a sign of God's blessings. Isn't wealth and riches a sign of God's blessings – that God has blessed you? People often say, I am blessed to have good health, a wonderful family, a beautiful house, a paying job or something else that is good or desirable.

How can the poor be blessed? What is nice about being poor? What is great about being poor? The poor struggle to make ends meet, so how are they blessed? In what sense? The poor are despised, undermined, looked down upon, excluded, unwanted, unrecognized, how can they be the blessed ones? The poor are beggars who struggle to know where to get the next meal and yet Jesus says the poor are blessed, and it is they that inherit the kingdom of God. The question is how?

Jesus proclaims blessings to people who are in situations that don't sound like good life. They don't even sound like something to give thanks for.

There is nothing particularly blessed about being in need, but poor people are blessed because their poverty forces them to rely on God (rather than wealth or status) to meet their needs. The poor in their humility, are the ones closest to God's heart, whereas the opposite is true of the arrogant pride of the rich, who really rely only on themselves. The poor are blessed because God takes their side.

I can also say that Jesus does not attribute any intrinsic value to being poor, nor is there any automatic evil in being rich. Jesus says, *"blessed are the poor"*, not *"blessed are all who are poor"*. Luke's account suggests that the poor in this case are his followers who have chosen poverty to follow Jesus. It is not simply being poor that is blessed but being poor for Christ's sake. Basil the Great (330-379) interpreted this to mean "voluntary poverty" – *those who have become poor for no other reason than the teaching of the Lord who said, "Go and sell all you have and give to the poor"*. The one who has exchanged material wealth for riches of the soul. Who has shaken off earthly riches like a burden. Those who chose the path of humility, despising honors of this world. Who abandoned human ambition to become beggars before God, regardless of one's economic status, remembering Christ that even though He was rich he became poor.



Likewise, there is no intrinsic merit in being rejected and persecuted, but only in being thus treated on Christ's account. The joy of serving Jesus will more than compensate for the things disciples give up to serve. When we give our allegiance to the kingdom of God, we lose the benefits which come from giving sole allegiance to the kingdoms of this world. When we say yes to the path of Christ, we say no to the glamour that keep us full of ourselves, satisfied with our gain, and distracted from our goal. The blessed is an economically, physically impoverished person who not only recognizes his or her need but also trusts in God for full redemption. The blessed is the economically destitute who nonetheless trust God and put their hope for justice and the kingdom of God in God. You are blessed when you are deprived and pitiful. You are blessed when you are at the end of your rope. You are blessed with less of you because there is more of God and his rule. You are blessed!

Prayer: *Lord, I try so hard to be self-sufficient, to be rich but ultimately my efforts to rely on myself fail. I realize just how much I need you. You are the defender of the poor, I come to you empty, needy, poor and ask that you keep me in your thoughts.*



1. How does your financial status affect your spiritual status?
2. How are you blessed by God? Are you able to count your blessings?
3. As you think about your life, who are some of the people that blessed you? Who are some that you have blessed?
4. What is one way that you will bless someone this week?!



FAMILY TIME:
Written by Jenny Blake
CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Week 6 - You're Blessed

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26 (The Message)

Key Verse: *"You're blessed when you've lost it all. God's kingdom is there for the finding."* (Luke 6:20)

Introduction

What does it mean to be blessed? Sometimes people think it's about having lots of things or always being happy. But Jesus shows us a different kind of blessing—one that goes deeper and is all about God's love for us.

Bible Story Recap

Jesus was surrounded by a crowd of people who had come to hear Him and be healed. He looked at His disciples and began teaching them about what it means to be truly blessed.

He said things that might sound surprising: people who are poor, hungry, sad, or excluded are blessed because they can trust God to take care of them. But those who only focus on their own happiness, wealth, or popularity might miss out on God's kingdom.

Jesus wasn't saying it's wrong to be happy or have good things, but He wanted His followers to remember that real blessing comes from knowing and trusting God.

Family Discussion

1. What does it mean to be blessed?

Talk about how blessings are more than things we have—they're about knowing God loves us.

2. Why does Jesus say the poor and hungry are blessed?

Discuss how trusting God can bring joy, even when life is hard.

3. How can we bless others this week?

Share ideas like helping someone in need or praying for a friend.

Activity: Blessing Jar

Create a "*Blessing Jar*" as a family. Each day this week, write down something you're thankful for or a way God has blessed you. At the end of the week, read them together and thank God for His goodness.

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us that being blessed is about more than what we have—it's about knowing You and trusting You. Help us to see Your blessings in our lives and to share them with others. Amen."

