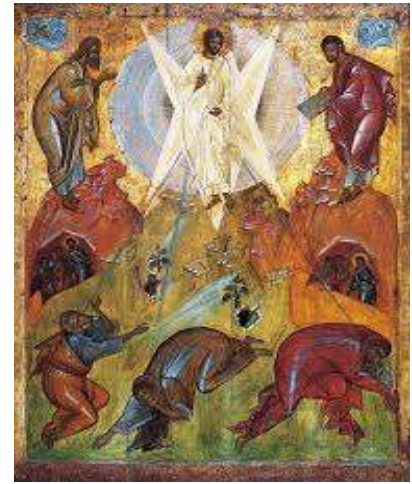


### LECTIONARY - YEAR A (2025-2026)

<b>WEEK 1</b>	The Baptism of Jesus
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>John Testifies About Jesus</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Jesus Begins to Preach
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Salt and Light
<b>WEEK 6</b>	The Transfiguration



### HOME GROUPS AND CLASSES GUIDE:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).



### WORSHIP SONG:

**Known By You | feat. Jessie Harris | Gateway Worship**

<https://youtu.be/Avi4sMPPQzI?si=YbpyETyvxvFuv-Fv>

## WEEK 2: Sunday, January 18, 2026

### John Testifies About Jesus



**Isaiah 49:1-7**  
**Psalm 40:1-11**  
**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**  
**John 1:29-42** New International Version

### John Testifies About Jesus

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down

from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup>And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

### **John's Disciples Follow Jesus**

<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup>The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup>And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

### **REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: REV ZAMANI SIKUPELA**

**Isaiah 49:1-7** is a powerful prophecy about the suffering Messiah (Jesus) and the universal scope of God's salvation, showing how God uses the seemingly weak and rejected to achieve His glorious, world-changing purposes, a pattern for all who follow Him. The story of God's people is full of unlikely servants raised up by God. The focus is on the future Messiah. It is his words, his voice that God will use for his purposes. God chooses to speak through the voice of a servant.....and the power of God's word is not diminished by this process.

God intends for Israel to be restored as a people with one another and with God. Their exile is not the end of the story. Jesus is going to bring the Israelites back into a relationship with Him through His life. But then God says that's not enough...it is not enough just to restore the protected ones of Israel. No, You will also be a light for all the nations. Through You, all the world will be saved. These words from Isaiah were written for the people of Israel, but they apply to us today as well. Into a crisis, Isaiah speaks a word of hope. God will send a servant who will do justice. He shouts this news from the rooftops.

**Psalms 40:1-11.** Upon reading this Psalm, I had to ask myself: "*When did I ever wait for anything at all without frustration or anxiety?*" We wait in traffic, wait for things to get better, or wait in the waiting room. We are no good at waiting. We want to get moving, we can't bear wasting time, and the clock is ticking while we just don't know what will unfold next.

The mood of the poet may be expressed by translating, "*I waited and waited*". It suggests that the writer was not naturally very good at waiting. Waiting for God to help us is not easy. Nevertheless, this man did wait, even if there was an undercurrent of complaint in his mind. We note further the good results of patience in the psalmist's experience. God, he cries, in the end **inclined unto me** – listened favourably – and **heard my cry** – decided to take action. God lifted him out of his despair. He set his feet on the rock. He gave him a firm place to stand and put a new song of praise in his mouth. Why did God not act sooner? To teach patience perhaps? Clearly, he regards the patient spirit as important. Blessings cannot be received unless we go through the trial of waiting.

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9** Paul thanks God for the Corinthians because God has given grace to them in Christ Jesus. At the end of the thanksgiving, Paul reminds the Corinthians that God, who is faithful, has called them into communion with one another and with Christ. He affirmed the privilege of belonging to the Lord and receiving his grace: the power God gave them to speak out for him and understand his truth, and the reality of their spiritual gifts.

His thanksgiving also corrects any mistaken impression that the Corinthians have attained the fullness of life in Christ. When we must correct others, it helps to begin by affirming what God has already accomplished in them. In the thanksgiving, Paul mentions that the Corinthians are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ and that there is a "*day of the Lord*" yet in the future.

## GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways does the promise of Isaiah 49 provide hope in despair, light in darkness?
2. Can you think of a time you had to wait on an answer or outcome? How was the waiting?
3. When God seems to take too long to answer, too long to deliver, what false gods or lies would you tend to turn toward?
4. How can you better work with others to achieve the mission of God as set before you?

## MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

- Monday:** **Isaiah 49:3** *"You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.*
- Tuesday:** **Isaiah 49: 5b** *"For I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has been my strength".*
- Wednesday:** **Psalms 40:1** *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry"*
- Thursday:** **Psalms 40: 3** *"He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God"*
- Friday:** **1 Corinthians 1:9** *"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ.*
- Saturday:** **John 1:39** *"He said unto them, Come and see"*



- **Monday, January 19, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40;
- **Tuesday, January 20, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4;
- **Wednesday, January 21, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17;
- **Thursday, January 22, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24;
- **Friday, January 23, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10;
- **Saturday, January 24, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32;

## FAMILY TIME: WRITTEN BY JENNY BLAKE

### Week 2: John Testifies About Jesus

#### Readings:

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42



**Theme:** *Jesus Is the Lamb of God—We Are Called to Point Others to Him*

### Introduction

During Epiphany, we focus on how Jesus is *revealed* to the world. Last week, we saw God declare Jesus as His beloved Son. This week, we meet another powerful witness: **John the Baptist**. Instead of drawing attention to himself, John's whole life points toward Jesus. These readings help us understand what it means to recognise who Jesus truly is and then help others see Him too. Like a bright sign pointing the way, John says, *"Look! The Lamb of God!"* Our calling is the same: to notice Jesus at work and guide others toward Him.

### Opening Prayer

*"Lord Jesus, open our eyes like John's and help us see who You really are. Help us share Your light with others. Amen."*

### 1. Isaiah 49:1-7 – God Calls His Servant to Be a Light

God speaks of His Servant who will bring salvation, not just to Israel, but to the **whole world**.

#### Talk About It

- **Kids:** Who are people you can share God's love with?
- **Teens:** What does it mean that *you* are part of God's mission to shine His light?

## 2. Psalm 40:1–11 – God Rescues Us, So We Tell Others

David remembers how God pulled him out of a “slimy pit” and gave him a “new song.”

When God helps us, we don’t keep quiet—we **tell the story**.

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** What is one thing God has helped you with?
- **Teens:** When has God lifted you out of a “pit” (fear, stress, guilt?) How did that shape your faith?

## 3. 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 – God Gives Us Everything We Need

Paul tells the church they are called, gifted, and strengthened through Jesus.

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** What gifts has God put in you to help others?
- **Teens:** Where do you feel God stretching or calling you right now? In school, friendships, or faith?

## 4. John 1:29–42 – John Points to Jesus

John sees Jesus and cries out, “**Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**”

John doesn’t point to himself—he points everyone straight to Jesus.

Two of John’s disciples follow Jesus, and Jesus invites them: “**Come and see.**”

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** Why do you think John wanted everyone to know who Jesus is?
- **Teens:** Who helps you “come and see” Jesus? How can you be that person for someone else?

### Bringing It Together

All four readings show a single message:

- God chooses His Servant to shine light to the nations (Isaiah).
- When God rescues us, we tell others (Psalm).
- God equips us with gifts and calling (Corinthians).
- John points people to Jesus, the Lamb of God (Gospel).

**Epiphany truth:** We see Jesus clearly, then we help others see Him too.

### Family Activity: “Point the Way”

Take turns hiding a small object in the room.

One person gives directions—*only by pointing*, not speaking.

Everyone tries to find it.

### After the game, discuss:

- **Kids:** How did pointing help?
- **Teens:** How can your actions “point” others to Jesus, even without words?

### Family Prayer

*“Jesus, Lamb of God, thank You for taking away our sins and inviting us to ‘come and see.’ Help our family shine Your light and point others to You. Amen.”*

### Blessing

*“May Jesus, who calls us to follow Him, guide you and fill your home with His light this week.”*