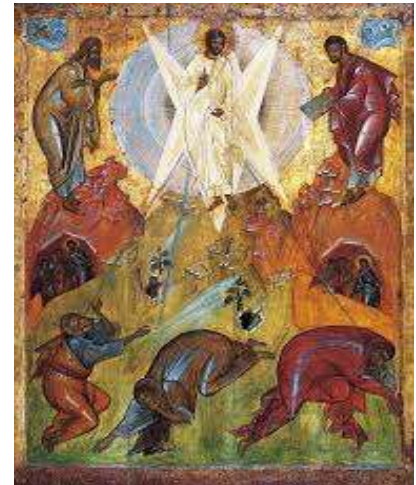




## LECTIONARY - YEAR A (2025-2026)

<b>WEEK 1</b>	The Baptism of Jesus
<b>WEEK 2</b>	John Testifies About Jesus
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>Jesus Begins to Preach</b>
<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:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

<https://youtu.be/npWJZwgmKMo?si=CLozBVHoi18LrNev>

## WEEK 3: Sunday, January 25, 2026: Jesus Begins to Preach



**Isaiah 9:1-4**  
**Psalm 27:14-9**  
**1 Corinthians 1:10-18**  
**Matthew 4:12-23** New International Version

## Jesus Begins to Preach

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—<sup>14</sup>to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people living in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup>From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

### **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup>and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### **Jesus Heals the Sick**

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

## **REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: LOCAL PREACHER – TONY MATTHEE**

Jesus had not begun his preaching ministry when John was imprisoned. Would it not be prudent or logical to start where John left off? Surely his teaching would have had more impact if he had started in Jerusalem, in the Temple, the very heart of Jewish worship. Yet he withdraws to Galilee, the area he grew up in. Why? This was to fulfil a prophesy concerning the Messiah. Scholars cannot give a precise number of prophesies that Jesus fulfilled, but there is agreement that there are over 300! The two areas Zebulun and Naphtali were allocated by Joshua when the Israelites settled in the promised land. Nazareth was in Zebulun and Capernaum was in Naphtali.

Jesus’ ministry involved leading people to God. Our ministry involves leading people to Jesus Christ. Jesus began his ministry in his home area. It is said that the most influential individuals in leading people to Christ are parents, followed by friends and then ministers (pastors). The importance of the home and family can never be underestimated when establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth. The Bible gives us a perfect example of this in the life of Timothy. He was greatly influenced by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. Our homes are places where we cannot afford to neglect the opportunity to establish and to extend the Kingdom of God.

The first word that Jesus utters in his preaching ministry is “*Repent*.” It is the same word used by John the Baptist in his preaching ministry. What did Jesus mean by that word when he spoke it? Would I be wrong in saying that it involves a change of mind and how we live our lives. We are asked by Jesus to stop living our lives the way we want to live them and instead live them the way God would have us live them. But Jesus took this concept even further. His main purpose in coming to this Earth was to die so that the sins of the world could be forgiven. That includes all of us. The Bible teaches us that “*without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*.” (Heb. 9: 22) If we do not admit we are sinners and ask Jesus to forgive our sin, then Jesus died in vain for us as an individual. We need to repent!

It is interesting to see, that Jesus was not going to do this work alone. He needed people to see and experience what he was doing so that they could continue his work and spread the Gospel to the entire world. The people he chose for this monumental task were fishermen and ordinary people like you and me. Jesus doesn’t need only people who are gifted orators or gifted leaders of people or gifted motivators of people, but he needs ordinary people who will be COMMITTED to his cause. He said to his disciples and, by association, us as well, “*As the Father has sent me, so I send you*.” (John 20:21. How do we see our role in the commission Jesus gave to his disciples: “*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28: 19, 20)?

## **GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:**

1. Discuss how parents can influence children in the home for the Kingdom of God as well as the difficulties they may encounter.
2. Why do people live in darkness when light is available? Why is Jesus referred to as “*the light of the world*?”

3. We are all “*sinner saved by grace*.” What do you think is meant by that statement and how often do we need to ask for forgiveness?
4. What does it mean to be a “committed” Christian compared to an “uncommitted” Christian?
5. Would you regard a person who is “*born again*” a miracle? Discuss “*miracles*” and the part they play in our lives and the life of the Church.

### MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

- Monday:** “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*” Isa. 9: 2
- Tuesday:** “*The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?*” Ps. 27:1
- Wednesday:** “*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*” 1 Cor. 1:10
- Thursday:** “*Come, follow me*’ Jesus said, ‘*and I will make you fishers of men.*’” Matt. 4:19
- Friday:** “*From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.’*” Matt. 4:17
- Saturday:** “*Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path.*” Ps. 27:11



- **Monday, January 26, 2026:** Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14;
- **Tuesday, January 27, 2026:** Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18;
- **Wednesday, January 28, 2026:** Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79;
- **Thursday, January 29, 2026:** Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12;
- **Friday, January 30, 2026:** Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24;
- **Saturday, January 31, 2026:** Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35;

### FAMILY TIME: WRITTEN BY JENNY BLAKE

#### Week 3: Jesus Begins to Preach

#### Readings:

- Isaiah 9:1–4
- Psalm 27:1–9
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–18
- Matthew 4:12–23



**Theme:** *Jesus Brings Light, Hope, and a New Way to Live*

#### Introduction

As Epiphany continues, we keep watching how Jesus is revealed to the world. Last week John pointed everyone to Jesus, calling Him the Lamb of God. Now, in Week 3, Jesus steps into public ministry. He moves into a place filled with spiritual darkness and begins preaching a simple but life-changing message: “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**” He brings light, calls disciples, and starts showing people what God’s Kingdom looks like. These readings help us see Jesus as the One who brings hope to dark places and invites us to follow Him.

#### Opening Prayer

“*Jesus, shine Your light into our lives and help us follow You with courage and joy. Amen.*”

#### 1. Isaiah 9:1–4 – Light Shines in the Darkness

Isaiah promises that people walking in darkness will see a **great light**. God bringing joy, freedom, and hope.

#### Talk About It

- **Kids:** What makes you feel safe when it’s dark?

- **Teens:** Where do you see “darkness” today (stress, injustice, fear, bullying) and how might Jesus bring light?

## 2. Psalm 27:1–9 – The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

David says he’s not afraid because God is his light. Even when enemies surround him, he chooses to trust and seek God.

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** What helps you trust God when you’re scared?
- **Teens:** What does it look like to “seek God” in everyday life. At school, in relationships, and decisions?

## 3. 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 – United in Christ, Not Divided

Paul encourages the church to be united, not split into groups following different leaders. Jesus is the centre; His cross is the source of our hope.

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** How can you help your friends get along?
- **Teens:** Why do you think Christians sometimes argue? What helps us stay focused on Jesus instead of differences?

## 4. Matthew 4:12–23 – Jesus Begins His Ministry

Jesus moves to Capernaum, fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy about light shining in darkness. He begins preaching, **calling disciples**, and **healing the sick**. His message: *Turn toward God—the Kingdom is near!*

### Talk About It

- **Kids:** Why do you think the fishermen dropped everything to follow Jesus?
- **Teens:** What might following Jesus cost you and what could it give you?

## Bringing It Together

This week’s readings reveal that...

- Jesus is the **Light** promised long ago (Isaiah).
- God is our safe place, even in scary times (Psalm).
- Followers of Jesus are called to unity and humility (Corinthians).
- Jesus invites ordinary people to follow Him and join His mission (Gospel).

**Epiphany truth:** Jesus shines God’s light and calls us to follow Him into a new way of living.

## Family Activity: “Follow the Leader – Jesus Style”

Choose one person to be “Jesus.” Everyone else must follow their movements exactly- walking, kneeling, praying hands, helping motions, etc.

After a minute, switch leaders.

## Discussion after:

- **Kids:** What was easy or hard about following?
- **Teens:** What habits or choices help you *keep following Jesus* even when life gets busy?

## Family Prayer

*“Jesus, Light of the World, thank You for calling us to follow You. Give us courage to walk in Your ways and help us shine Your light wherever we go. Amen.”*

## Blessing

*“May Jesus guide your steps this week and fill your home with His light and peace.”*