

Church Begins at Home

January 14-20
The Second Sunday after Epiphany B

A Verse for the Week

Philip found Nathanael and said, "We have found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."
(John 1:45-46)



Daily Readings

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. In today's reading Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see." Jesus' comment that Nathanael is an "Israelite in whom there is no deceit" is a reference to Jacob (Israel) in the book of Genesis, who was often deceitful in his dealings with others.

MONDAY 1 Samuel 3:1-20

There are many Biblical accounts of a person receiving a "call" from God for a special purpose, but this is perhaps the best known and best loved — the call of Samuel. Samuel's mother, Hannah, was unable to have children and prayed that if God would grant her a son, she would dedicate him to God's service. That is how young Samuel happens to be living with the old priest, Eli.

TUESDAY 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8

This is the account of the call of Saul to be the first king of Israel (about 1040 B.C.) Samuel was an elderly man, a prophet and a judge who filled the role of spiritual leader during this era. The Philistines were Israel's neighbors to the west, along the Mediterranean Sea. The need to defend themselves from the Philistines was one of the reasons for unifying the nation under one king.

WEDNESDAY 1 Samuel 15:10-31

Saul turned out to be a disappointment as king. This is the account of Samuel's confronting Saul with his failure to follow orders. In the opening verses of this chapter, Samuel tells Saul he is to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites, taking no prisoners or booty. However, Saul keeps what is valuable (some of the sheep and cattle) and only destroys what is of no use to him.

THURSDAY Luke 18:15-17

In this passage Jesus makes it clear that what is most valued in a disciple is simple trust, such as found in small children.

FRIDAY Genesis 16:1-14

The story of Hagar is a not well-known part of the story of Abraham and Sarah. Having God's promise that they would have a child and Sarah being unable to conceive, Sarah & Abraham decide to help God out by having Hagar bear a child for them. The plan turns out badly (as most human attempts to "play God" do). Her son, Ishmael, is traditionally understood to be the father of the Arab nations.

SATURDAY Mark 1:14-20 (Tomorrow's Gospel)

Tomorrow's gospel again focuses on the theme of Jesus calling his disciples.

Catechism Corner

(from Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*)

The Second Petition

Your kingdom come.

What is this?

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does this come about?

Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's Holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.