

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Epiphany 2 – 17th January 2021

Read John 1.43-51

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Today we hear about two friends, Philip and Nathanael, who have an unexpected meeting with Jesus and react in different ways. Philip meets Jesus and is so excited that he rushes over to his friend, Nathanael, and says “I’ve met the Messiah; come and see.” Philip is full of confidence and enthusiasm. But Nathanael is not convinced. He almost laughs it off saying that nothing good could come from such a downmarket place as Nazareth. Then Nathanael meets Jesus, hears what he has to say, and recognises him as the Son of God, Israel’s King. What a change!

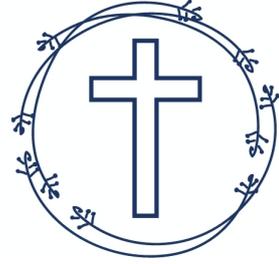


Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus. Have you had an experience of being brought to Jesus? Who first told you about God or took you to church? Was it your parents, another relative, or a friend? Or did you start reading about God and decide to find out more? When Philip talks to Nathanael he says “Come and see.” The Greek word “see” means a lot more than just “have a look”; it means understand. Philip is encouraging Nathanael to understand what he is saying. He wants Nathanael to experience what he has felt so that he understands who Jesus is. Nathanael reaches that understanding by listening to Jesus. How can we listen to Jesus? How can we understand God better? What kind of situation or place helps you to see or hear God? Life can be very noisy and busy. Sometimes it’s good to find a quiet place to sit and think or pray. Some people like to go for a walk in the countryside to feel close to God. Other people like to sit in a comfortable place and read the Bible or listen to some music. Sometimes we can hear God by listening to what other people say (like Nathanael did). Try these different things this week and see which one works best for you.

Activities

- Make a prayer journal this week. Use a small notebook or fold some paper into a booklet. Each day write or draw something in your prayer journal. It could be something that you want to say to God, or something that you hear or notice from God. No-one else will see your journal but it will help you to understand God better and feel closer to God.

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Prayer

Almighty God, you speak to us in so many ways.

Help us today to hear your voice and know that it is you.

Speak to us in the silence, through Scripture and by the Holy Spirit.

Speak through others, and through your creation, through images, experiences, music and through our relationships.

Speak, Lord, and help us to listen. Amen.