

## Teen Devotion

Year B – Second Sunday after Epiphany  
From the River to the Mountain



**One truth shared:** We marvel at the kindness our Savior shows sinners and the exciting work he gives us to do.

*The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."*

**John 1:43**

### The Kindness in His Calling

How many selfies do you take before settling on one? Studies find that today's teens can take up to five or more selfies of themselves before posting on social media. And why? Largely because perfection is what people are after. We don't want our blemishes showing. We want the lighting to be perfect. Before anyone else out there in cyberworld sees the finished product, we want to hide our imperfections so that no one sees them.

Obviously, this is not achievable in this world so ravaged by sin. We fail. All the time. In so many ways. We do the things we know are bad for us. We stay away from the things which will strengthen us and bring us closer to God. We can try, try, and try again... and yet nothing can change the fact that we have failed.

And yet Jesus loves us. He calls us his own. He did what we could not do—and so much more—so that we do not get as our sins deserve and instead get the gift of an eternity with him in heaven.

We get even more than that. Jesus uses dirty, rotten sinners of all shapes and sizes to serve him in this life and to proclaim his glorious mercy to those around us. He did so at the beginning of his ministry as he called unworthy men to follow him. He does so today as he looks at our faults, knows our weaknesses, and still has room for us in his kingdom and plenty of work for us to join in on this earth.

Jesus loves you, fellow sinner. Never forget that. Always remember your worth to him every day of life.

**Prayer:** Thank you for loving me despite myself, dear God. Your mercy humbles me and gives me joy each day. Amen.

## Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

### Year B – Second Sunday after Epiphany

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### The Kindness in His Calling

***Starting the Discussion:** This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- What are some “hidden talents” you have that others might not know about? What are some things that you wish you were much better at but just can’t master?
- Let’s have a little juggling contest and spelling bee to see how good—or bad—we are at different skills. (*Youth leaders, prep for how these activities are done for your setting.*)

***Connecting:** This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.*

If you had the opportunity to come face to face with Jesus in this life, how would you react? Let’s discuss our answers.

***Digging In:** Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Let’s read the full account in John 1:43-51. After being called to follow Jesus, Philip found Nathanael and told him to “come and see” this Jesus of Nazareth. Why do you think he wanted him to “come and see”?
- Jesus reveals his almighty power to Nathanael while speaking with him. What are some other times in Scripture where Jesus did the same thing?
- Put yourselves in the disciples’ sandals for a moment. How would you have reacted to Jesus telling you to follow him?
- How does knowing that Jesus is indeed the “Son of God” affect Nathanael in our reading? Let’s discuss some ways in which this trust in Christ affects us.
- Another reading for this second Sunday in Epiphany is 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. Let’s read it together and discuss what that tells us about ourselves and about our Savior.

***Conclusion:** Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

We have a God who knows all things about us and our lives. In what ways can this be an uncomfortable thing? How, though, does it give us amazing joy and assurance?