

JANUARY 4, 2015
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS

taking[†] faith home

Jesus became human to show us God's love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 1:10-18	The Word became a human being
Monday	Ezekiel 37:15-28	God will dwell with his people
Tuesday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Wednesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations come to the light
Thursday	1 Kings 10:1-13	Sheba's queen visits Solomon
Friday	John 19:38-42	Nicodemus brings myrrh
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-4	King of justice
Sunday	Genesis 1:1-5	In the beginning

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John 1:14 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for becoming human to save us. Please come and live in our hearts today. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, come. Come and bless our food and our home. Come to dwell with us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may Jesus bless you with his loving kindness, over and over again. Amen. (John 1:16)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Name the people who are close to your heart. How did that come to be?
- Jesus, God the Son, became human. He showed us God's love by living with us. In what ways did he show that love?
- Is it important to you that Jesus became human? Why?

DEVOTIONS

The Gospel of John calls Jesus "the Word" (John 1:1,14). In his life on earth, Jesus said and did many things that spoke of God's grace and truth to us. As a household, make a list of your favorite sayings of Jesus. Print or write these out in large print, and display these on the walls of your home. Say a prayer for all the ways in which you have heard of God's love through Jesus.

SERVICE

Jesus is God visiting us in the flesh. As a household, arrange to make a personal visit to the home of someone in your community (e.g. an elderly or homebound person). Set out to visit them with God's love through your in-the-flesh words and actions.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

January 6 (Tuesday) is the festival day of "Epiphany" for the church. The word epiphany means "to show," "to make known" or "to reveal." It is linked to the visit of the wise men who brought royal gifts to the Christ child, "revealing" him to the world as Lord and King. There are many wonderful household traditions associated with Epiphany. Choose one or more of the following ideas to introduce into your home.

1. Have a home candlelight evening - turn off all lights and use only candles to guide you. If it is a clear night, take a few minutes to look at the stars.
2. Play "dress-up" - put on costumes to represent the wise men at an evening meal.
3. Have an Epiphany treasure hunt - "hide" a baby Jesus figure somewhere in your home and have household members search for it.
4. Make stars out of card stock and paint them gold or yellow. Hang them throughout your home.
5. An old Epiphany tradition involves hiding small items in a cake. On the night before the feast of Epiphany, a special cake would be served with three beans hidden within. Whoever found the beans would be the Kings at the Epiphany feast. In line with this tradition, bake a cake with coins inside. Give a paper crown to those who find the coins.



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