

THEME: EPIPHANY – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

As we Gather

The readings this month have recorded the various events following the birth of Jesus, which were foretold by the prophets Hosea 11:1, Micah 5:20 and Isaiah 40:3.

This week's readings both continue to record people's reactions / responses to meeting Christ.

Reading Scripture Psalm 40 : 1 – 11 and John 1 : 29 - 42

Thinking together

Psalm 40 is a beautiful poem of gratitude and response to grace and mercy. See for example – verses 1, 3, 4, 6, and 10

Share with the group your feelings and thoughts while reading Psalm 40:1-11

The Gospel of John proclaims to all people that Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (John 1:34) became flesh to redeem mankind (1:29), and that His whole life and ministry revealed and glorified the Father who sent Him.

John was a well known preacher who, in humble obedience to a sign from God (1:33), declared Jesus to be the anointed Messiah (1:29)

**Why do you think John referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God? Discuss
(see also Exodus 12:11-13 and 29:38-42, and Isaiah 53:7)**

Baptism with water was seen as the symbolic washing away of the sin of the repentant.

What do you understand it to mean to be baptised with the Holy Spirit? Discuss

John specifically drew the attention of his disciples to Jesus (1:35-36)

Why do you think he did this? Discuss

When two of John's disciples followed Jesus, He asked them 'what do you want?' (1:38). He asks the same question of all who would follow Him today. To follow is not enough, it must be for the right reasons.

For what reasons do you follow Jesus? Discuss

The disciples who followed Jesus called Him Rabbi (1:38) and Messiah (1:41).

What do you call Jesus? Discuss

In Closing

The lives of those who encounter Jesus are never the same again. He introduces a change of character.

When Jesus saw Simon (1:42), He saw the potential in him.

What does Jesus see in you?