

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, January 18, 2026 (Epiphany 2)

Isaiah 49:1-7

Discussion Starters

1. This is one of the four "Suffering Servant" passages in Isaiah. Who is this servant, and why do you think so?
2. In his discouragement, what promises does this servant receive from God? What do these imply about the identity of the servant?
3. What examples in the life of Jesus was His speech "like a sharpened sword?" Why did He sometimes speak that way (as opposed to always being gentle)?
4. What is meant by the phrase in verse 6 that the servant will "bring salvation to the ends of the earth?" How might the Jews have understood that statement?

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Discussion Starters

1. What kind of place was Corinth? How would life in Corinth affect a young church?
2. Based on these verses, how would you describe the church at Corinth? How does Paul describe those who are a part of the church there?
3. Why would Paul feel the need here to identify himself as an apostle?
4. For what is Paul thankful? Do you feel like these statements of thanksgiving could be said about you? about our church? Why or why not?

John 1:29-42

Discussion Starters

1. How do you think John felt when his disciples began to follow Jesus?
2. Summarize John's affirmation of Jesus (vv. 29-34). What key points does he want us to understand?
3. What motivated Andrew to tell Simon about Jesus?
4. How do you think Simon felt when Jesus changed his name to Peter/Cephas?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?