

Lectionary Bible Study For Sunday, January 25, 2026 (Epiphany 4)

Isaiah 9:1-4

Discussion Starters

1. Who are Zebulun and Naphtali, and how have they suffered? Why did they suffer?
2. What is meant by "Midian's defeat" (v. 4)? Refer to Judges 7:19-25.
3. What is the cause of the joy (v. 3)? How would you define the kind of joy described here?
4. How do you see the season of Epiphany represented in this passage? (Remember Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the wise men.)
5. How would this passage bring joy to the original readers? What modern day application might we make from it?

1Corinthians 1:10-18

Discussion Starters

1. What are the four factions that are dividing the Corinthian Church? Who are Apollos and Cephas? What was the cause of their division?
2. What kind of connection do you think Paul had with these Corinthian Christians?
3. What is the right kind of relationship for the people of a church to have with its pastor(s)? How can they avoid being divided into factions?
4. Do you think conflict is avoidable in a church? Why or why not? What steps can a church to minimize it? What should be done if it exists?
5. How does division within a church impact the gospel message?

Matthew 4:12-23

Discussion Starters

1. How does Jesus react to John's imprisonment? Why do you think He reacted in that way?
2. What is the relationship of the "light" to Jesus' message about repentance and the kingdom of heaven?
3. What is the invitation given by Jesus to these fishermen? What does the immediacy of their response say to you?
4. What does "repent" mean?
5. In what way was "the kingdom of heaven at hand?"

WRAP UP

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