

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, February 8, 2026 (Epiphany 5)

Isaiah 58:1-12

Discussion Starters

1. In what ways did God's people seem to do the right thing (vv. 1-3a)? How did they spoil it (vv. 3b-5)?
2. How did their view of fasting differ from God's view? If their fasting was sincere, what would be different about their relationships with others?
3. What is the connection between religious endeavors and a person's relationships with other people? How is personal spiritual renewal related to seeking justice for the poor?
4. In what ways do people today go through the motions of faith? How do we move such people to a place where there is spiritual meaning in what they do?
5. When should God's people fast, and when should they act?

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Discussion Starters

1. From the references to wisdom in this passage, what differences do you see between human wisdom and God's wisdom?
2. How would you describe Paul's preaching and teaching style?
3. How does Paul say the truth of the gospel is discovered? Why would that be significant for the unity of the church at Corinth?
4. The Corinthian church (as did Greek culture in general) measured "truth and success" by how powerful, influential and articulate someone was. In what way(s) God's standard different? What is the standard of measurement in our world today?
5. What does it mean to have "the mind of Christ?" How can we achieve that?

Matthew 5:13-20

Discussion Starters

1. How are the Beatitudes (vv. 3-12) related to the concepts of salt and light? How are Christians to penetrate society?
2. What can the church (that is, Christians today) do to make Christ shine brighter?
3. How does Jesus fulfill the prophets and accomplish everything in the Law?
4. What point is Jesus making when He speaks of the "least" and the "great?"
5. How do we obtain a righteousness that surpasses the Pharisees?

WRAP UP

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