

Lesson Plans That Work
Year B – Second Sunday After Epiphany
Gospel Lesson for Younger Children

Scripture: John 1:43-51

In the season of Epiphany, we follow Jesus' early ministry and calling of his disciples.

Note: This is the second in a four-part series on The Episcopal Church's refugee resettlement program, Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). Today's lesson focuses on the ways in which we are called to "Come and See" where Jesus is calling his disciples to serve in the world today.

Theme: Come and See

Before: If possible, review and queue up the following videos for use in your discussion:

- Supporting Refugee Students (<https://vimeo.com/39661884>)
- To Find a Friend (<https://vimeo.com/24183069>)

If you haven't yet explained who refugees are to the children, you may want to take a moment at the beginning of the fish activity to introduce them to the idea of human migration and why some people might move. Some people move in search of jobs and a better life for their families. Some people are forced to move for their own safety. Refugees are people who are forced to move for their safety; if they stayed in their homeland, they may be hurt very badly by people who do not want them there. Some refugees are able to return to their homes after some time, but many are never able to return home. A small number of those refugees are able to resettle in the United States. The Episcopal Church helps refugees to resettle in the United States through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Episcopal Migration Ministries resettles over 5,000 people refugees annually from places like Nepal, Burma, Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, and many other countries that are not safe for them.

If you would like to teach the children a little bit more about particular groups of people The Episcopal Church and other resettlement agencies resettle, you can find up to date statistics on the status of refugees in the world using this link: <http://www.unrefugees.org/>. Finally, if you have time, research the status of refugees in your community. Use the EMM network affiliate map to identify a resource in your area: <http://bit.ly/1swkPif>.

If you have questions, feel free to email or call Allison Duvall, EMM's program manager for church relations and engagement, at (212) 716-6027 or aduvall@episcopalchurch.org. She will be happy to assist you in enriching your lesson plan with information about Episcopal Migration Ministries and refugee resettlement.

Beginning: As the children arrive, welcome them to the room and invite them to your gathering area. As they arrive ask them about their week. Ask them if they have ever felt like they needed to help someone?

Opening Prayer: Loving God, thank you for giving us this time together and for helping us see the ways that we can be helpful, loving and kind people. Amen.

The Story: John 1:43-51

Today we hear one of the stories about how Jesus called his disciples, his friends and followers, to join him. Read John 1:43-51.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what Philip meant when he said, “Come and See.”?
- I wonder if “Come and See” would make you feel curious about what is happening?
- I wonder if “Come and See” is like an invitation to join into something?

Activity:

Explain that refugees are people who had to move to a new country where they might not speak the same language or know anyone.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what it means to be a friend?
- I wonder what it feels like to be a new person in a new country?
- I wonder if you have ever met anyone who is new to your school?
- I wonder how you can find a way to be a friend to someone who speaks a different language?
- I wonder if inviting someone to join you - to “Come and See” something with you - might help them feel like they belong?

Activity:

For this activity you will need paper and markers or crayons.

Explain the activity by saying we are going to think about all the ways we can be a good friend to someone who is new. How can we invite them to “come and see”?

Invite the children to use the materials to show one activity or event they can invite someone new to join them in. Maybe it’s playing on the playground at school or coming to their birthday party. Maybe it’s just sitting next to a new person at lunchtime. Allow the children enough time to draw and color their artwork.

Add the people to the community you created in the first week of this series of lessons.

Closing: Instead of a traditional closing prayer, read the promises of the Baptismal Covenant inviting participants to respond with “I will, with God’s help.”

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God’s help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

As they are leaving, remind participants to reflect upon their Baptismal promises over the next week.

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Written by Wendy Johnson

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Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), the refugee resettlement agency of The Episcopal Church, welcomes thousands of refugees each year from conflict zones across the globe. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the church as well as with governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), and a network of 30 affiliate offices in 26 dioceses, Episcopal Migration Ministries provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in the United States.

In 2015, Episcopal Migration Ministries is celebrating 75 years of refugee resettlement in The Episcopal Church through the year-long #ShareTheJourney campaign. #ShareTheJourney is a multi-media effort to educate, form, and equip Episcopalians to engage in loving service with resettled refugees and to become prophetic witnesses and advocates on behalf of refugees, asylees, migrants, and displaced persons the world over.

