

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: John 1:29-42**

*Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
(Book of Common Prayer, page 378)

Accept the light we have received and shine it forth! It is not about shining the light in other's faces, blinding them, but holding the light in open hands.

**A Notation for this Week's Gospel**

The transfer of power: "Behold the Lamb of God!" exclaims John the Baptist. He now knows for sure that this man that he has baptized (his cousin) is the long expected Messiah. John is no longer the lone voice crying in the wilderness. This Jesus is the light to the nations.

**Theme: Following the Light**

**Before Class:** You will need enough copies of the scripture below so each child can have one. As a means of helping the children grasp the meaning from today's passage, the suggestion is that they "cover" the story as television reporters. In addition to the reporter, they will need John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, and Andrew. If you have access to a tape recorder or video recorder, bring it.

**Beginning:** Tell the class that we are going to do a newscast on today's story, so as we read the passage, we can be thinking of ways to portray the story. If you have a tape recorder or video recorder, their production could be recorded for them to listen or watch later.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for John the Baptist who understood his job and who willingly passed it on to Jesus. Amen.

**The Story: John 1: 29-42** Invite three people to read the passage as it is broken up below – the first will read verses 29-34, the second 35-39a, and the third 39b-42.

**Questions:**

- I wonder why John the Baptist referred to Jesus as The Lamb of God? (The Hebrew people understood the significance of a lamb as a sacrifice. John knew that Jesus was not going to go roaring around like a lion, that he was approachable, and that he would eventually be killed.)
- I wonder how John might have explained what happened at the Baptism of Jesus to a reporter who was trying to understand? (It was clearly an "Ah HA!" moment for John and not one everyone would understand.)
- Who are the two disciples of John who show up just as Jesus walked by? (Verse 35-36, Simon and Andrew.)
- What do they decide to do when they meet Jesus? (They follow him.)
- I wonder why Jesus gave Simon the name Cephas? (Cephas means rock. Jesus saw his strength.)

**Activity:** Invite the children to decide how they want to make this story into a newscast. If you have a larger group, you can divide them into smaller groups so you have two or three presentations of the story. The children will need to decide who will play which part, making sure there is also at least one reporter. The children can decide the format of the show (news, or some form of an interview show). Offer to be a resource person but ask them to produce and perform the show which you will watch.

**Option:** If you have taped the newscast, play it for them and invite them to respond to their work.

**Getting Closure:** We cannot follow Jesus exactly the way Andrew and Peter did — we cannot walk along beside them. I wonder what is involved in “following” Jesus for us here now? I wonder what we think Jesus is calling us to do? (If the children cannot articulate this, you could begin with offering an understanding of your own: staying close to Jesus through prayer, noticing things I can do that Jesus would probably want me to do, etc.)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, that you sent Jesus to work with ordinary people just like us to show us how to follow Jesus. Amen.

**John 1:29-42**

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.'

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed.) He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter.)

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