

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 17th January
Second Sunday of Epiphany

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus, Philip and Nathanael.

You can find it in your Bible in:
John 1 v 43–51

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

- 1 Samuel 3 v 1-10 (11-20)
- Psalms 139 v 1-5, 12-18
- Revelation 5 v 1-10

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What changed Nathanael’s mind about Jesus?

When Philip told him about Jesus, Nathanael was not convinced, in fact he was quite rude asking “can anything good come from Nazareth?” Jesus revealed that he knew exactly where Nathanael had been sitting when Philip had come to speak to him. Nathanael was amazed at Jesus’ miraculous knowledge but Jesus promised that they would see even more incredible things. No wonder they decided to follow Him.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you tell me the story of how and why you decided to follow Jesus?

Was Nathanael one of the 12 disciples?

The list of Jesus’ twelve disciples appears in Mark 3, Matthew 10, and Luke 6... Philip is there, but there is no sign of Nathanael! Some people believe that Bartholomew who appears in this list was actually Nathanael but there is also plenty of evidence in the Gospels that Jesus had many more than 12 followers. In Luke 10 we read about Jesus sending out 72 followers (!) on a mission.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you that you know each one of us, that you are with us and see us wherever we are. Thank you for the story of Nathanael and Philip.

Help us to like Philip this week, studying the Bible to learn more about who you are and sharing what we know and learn with others.

Help us to be like Nathanael this week, recognising you at work in our lives and choosing to follow you. Amen.

Family Activity 1

What am I?

Jesus knew all about Nathanael and Philip before he had even seen them! Take it in turns to wear a blindfold (a scarf will do).

The person wearing a blindfold is passed an object from the room you are in; can they work out what it is without seeing it?





A verse to remember

Psalm 139 v 1–3

Lord, you have examined me and know all about me.
 You know when I sit down and when I get up.
 You know my thoughts before I think them.
 You know where I go and where I lie down.
 You know everything I do.

Psalm 139 reminds us that God is always with us and knows everything. Read the whole Psalm together. How does it make you feel to know that God is always with you? Try to learn these verses together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verses on a piece of paper or card together and put them up somewhere to remember through the week.

Family Activity 2

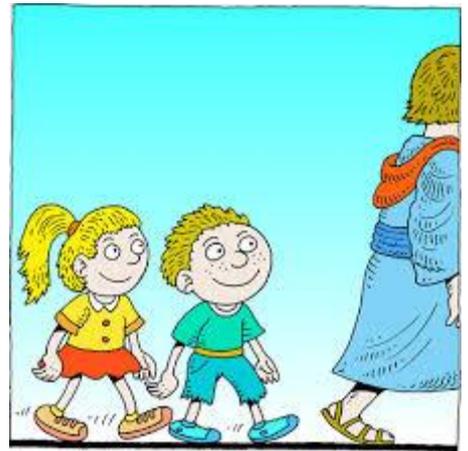
Play a game of follow the leader together, take it in turns to be the leader – everybody should try to copy exactly what the leader is doing. You could move around the room, do crazy actions or pull silly faces!



Active Following

Why not work together as a family to complete these active following tasks each day, each one is based on following the example of Jesus.

You might want to set specific times such as meal times, bath time or bed time for some of the tasks.



	Pray	Read	Live like Jesus
Monday	Pray for one another	Mark 1 v 16-19	Be an example to follow
Tuesday	Pray for your friends	Mark 1 v 40-45	Perform an act of kindness
Wednesday	Pray for family	Mark 2 v 1-17	Spend some quiet time with God
Thursday	Pray for teachers	Mark 3 v 7-12	Help somebody at home
Friday	Pray for others from church	Mark 3 v 13-19	Share a message of encouragement

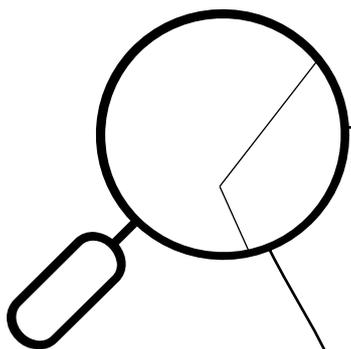
Helping Older Children

Why not encourage children to look up and read the Bible passage for each day in their own Bible. You could set aside time to read it separately and then discuss the following questions together.

- What example of Jesus could I follow from this story?
- How could I apply this story to my own life?

A colouring page you could print and colour together

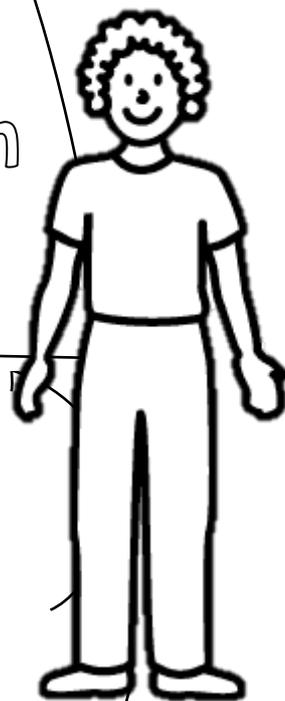
Psalm 139 v 1-3



Lord, you have examined me and know all about me.



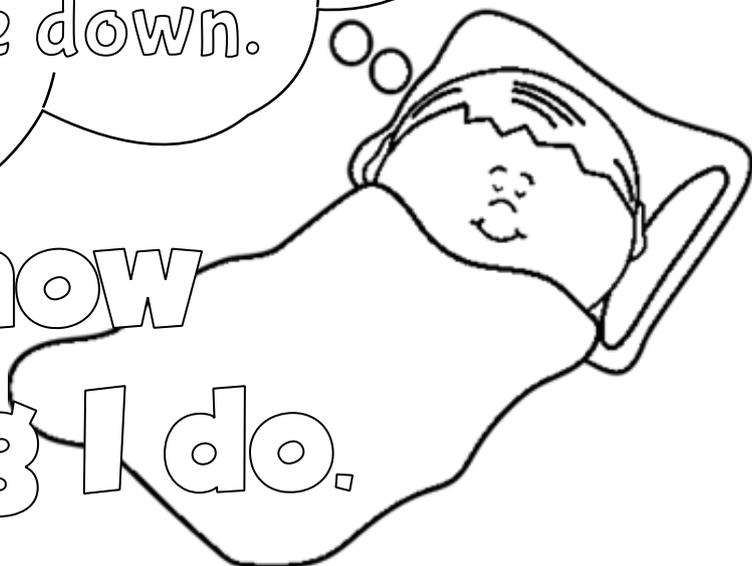
You know when I sit down and when I get up.



You know my thoughts before I think them.

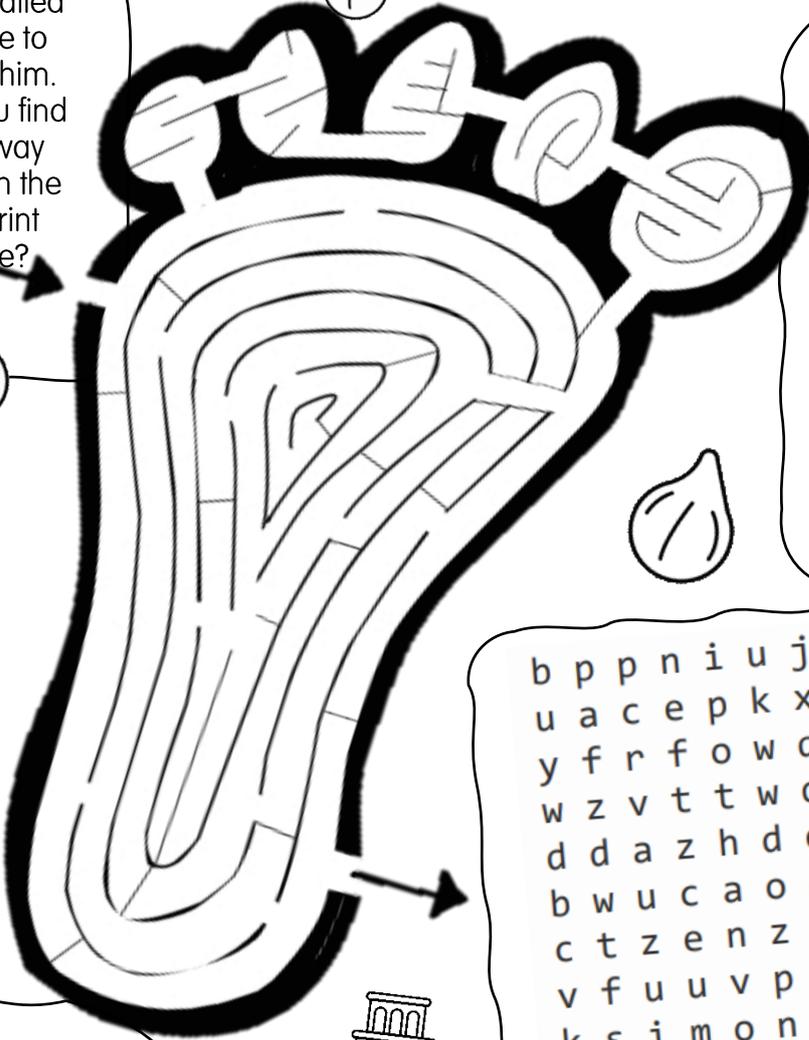
You know where I go and where I lie down.

You know everything I do.



PUZZLE SHEET

Jesus called people to follow him. Can you find your way through the footprint maze?



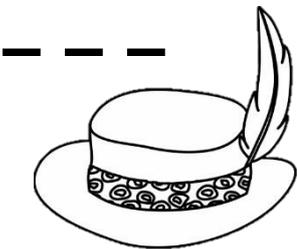
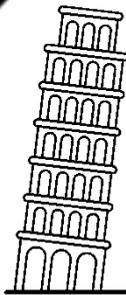
Jesus had 12 disciples; can you find all their names in the wordsearch below? Careful! Some names appear twice!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Simon Peter | Simon |
| Andrew | James |
| James | Thomas |
| John | Matthew |
| Philip | Thaddaeus |
| Bartholomew | Judas |

BONUS: Can you find **Nathanael**?

b p p n i u j e o t a p s j v
 u a c e p k x a h b i j i y t
 y f r f o w q a m l u q m j h
 w z v t t w d a i e x c o f o
 d d a z h d e h o b s q n w m
 b w u c a o p h x q v b p e a
 c t z e n z l m t y k n e r s
 v f u u v p g o a t k f t d l
 k s i m o n a q m s a s e n t
 l e a n a h t a n e j m r a o
 g b u g j s a d u j w m p q s
 l x m a n f e j l j o x d o h
 x s m m f h m e v v t h s x w
 g e o s o u o a e t u s k r s
 s e k s q j e j l h d a s m e

Can you work out the missing words? They are all made from the letters of the name Nathanael.



Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig tree. How many figs can you find hidden on the page?