

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
2021

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

LADDERS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Revelation (John 1: 43-51)

The gospel reading is from John's account of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. On the previous day Andrew had followed Jesus and told his brother Simon. Today Philip follows Jesus and tells Nathanael. When Andrew followed Jesus he said, 'We have found the Messiah.' When Nathanael followed Jesus he said, 'You are the Son of God.' To both men the true identity of Jesus has been revealed. As Messiah and as Son of God Jesus becomes the way of communication between God and men and women. Jesus is like a ladder between heaven and earth along which the angels (God's messengers) travel.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *ladders*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 1: 49-51)

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.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

your love links heaven and earth.

Lift our eyes to the highest heavens

and set our hearts on your true love,

so where you are we may be also;

now and for ever.

Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 1: 43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

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.'

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
2021

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on John's account of Jesus' encounter with Philip and Nathaniel (John 1: 43-51):

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- what do you make of Jesus' invitation to Philip, 'Follow me'?
- what do you make of Philip's invitation to Nathaniel, 'Come and see'?
- what do you make of Nathaniel's confession of faith, 'You are the Son of God'?
- what do you make of Jesus speaking of the angels ascending and descending?
- how can we best understand the narrative for today?

Using your Bible

Find the other reference to Nathaniel in the Gospels:

- John 21: 2

Explore passages in the Old Testament that illuminate this account:

- Genesis 28: 12
- Ezekiel 1: 1
- Micah 4: 4

Exploring online

- explore Nathaniel in the Bible
- explore Jacob's ladder in the Bible
- explore John 1: 51

Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experiences of ladders and stairs that make connections
- reflect on your experiences of connections between earth and heaven
- reflect on your experiences of Jesus making connections

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
2021

Creating and making

- make a ladder and make angels to ascend and descend
- make a poster of Jesus' encounter with Philip and Nathaniel
- create a collage of ladders and stairs that make connections
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of ladders

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2021

Engaging with children and young people

Things to think about

- Think of all the ladders you have seen or even used.
- What were they made of?
- What did they help you to reach?
- Did you need to have someone else holding the ladder and keep you safe?
- If you could use a ladder to reach another place, where would you choose to go?


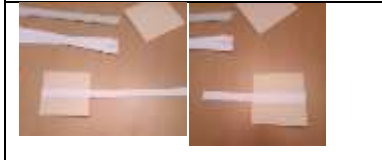
Things to do

- Snakes and ladders game.



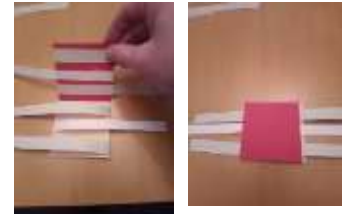
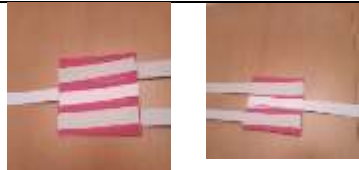


Draw a squared grid on a large piece of paper and number each square. Now draw as many snakes and ladders on the grid as you would like. You may wish to colour the game too.

Play the game as normal but each time you land on a ladder, say thank you to God for something you have enjoyed or been blessed by this week. Each time you land on a snake, ask God to help someone you feel may be in need of thoughts and prayers.

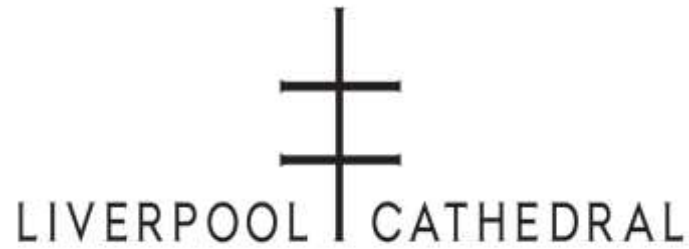
- Build your own model ladder using any modelling materials you may have – bricks, craft sticks, lego perhaps even paper or card. Use this as a focus for your reflections this week. What's the tallest structure you can make? You may want to create an angel that moves up and down the ladder too.
- Jacob's ladder. Why not have a go at making one of these ladders? They're fascinating to watch and use as another focus for prayer and meditation.

	<p>You will need: 7 squares of paper or card, funky foam, wooden blocks or even chocolate bars! 3 strips of paper per square; 3 x longer than the squares. I used 2 different colours for the paper strips. glue</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stick one paper strip in the middle of each square and fold the extra behind. Do this for all 6 squares

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
2021

	<p>2. Turn the squares round so the strip is now on the right hand side. Now glue another strip on either side and fold behind. Repeat this with each square</p>
	<p>3. Fold all strips back out and let the glue dry.</p>
	<p>4. Place the first square with the glued side underneath and fold the strips over the side facing you.</p>
	<p>5. Take another square and place the glued side on top of the square on the table making sure the middle strips are on opposite sides.</p>
	<p>6. Fold in and glue the short strips. Fold the remaining strips over but do not glue!</p>
	<p>7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you run out of squares. Remember to only glue the short strips!</p>
	<p>8. Use the 7th square to finish off the ladder gluing on the remaining strips.</p>
	<p>9. You can now make the pieces look as if they are falling from the top to the bottom!</p>

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (YEAR B) SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
2021



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales