



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, January 25, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings for January 25, 2026 – Third Sunday after Epiphany (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Is 9:1-4; Ps 27:1, 5-13; 1 Cor 1: 10-18; Mt 4:12-23; Preface of the Lord's Day

Sunday School Lesson Plan

January 25, 2026 – Third Sunday after Epiphany (Year A)

Scripture Readings

- Isaiah 9:1–4
- Psalm 27:1, 5–13
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–18
- Matthew 4:12–23

Lesson Title

“Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him”

Theme

Jesus is the Light of the world and invites us to follow Him together.

Big Idea

Jesus shines God's light into our lives and calls us to walk with Him.

Lesson Focus for Kids

Jesus loves us, calls us by name, and invites us to follow Him and share His light.

Scripture Readings – Kid-Friendly Language

Isaiah 9:2 (adapted)

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

Psalm 27:1 (adapted)

“The Lord is my light and my help. I am not afraid.”

Matthew 4:19 (adapted)

Jesus said, “Follow me.”

Welcome & Opening Prayer (Circle Time)

Welcome:

“Good morning! Jesus is with us today. He calls us to come close and follow Him.”

Opening Prayer:

“Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for being our light. Help us listen, learn, and follow you today. Amen.”

Memory Verse

“**Jesus said, ‘Follow me.’”** – Matthew 4:19

(Use hand motions: point upward for Jesus, walk fingers for follow.)

Bible Story Time

Matthew 4:12–23 – Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Story (simple retelling):

Jesus walked by the sea and saw fishermen working. He said, “Follow me.” Right away, they left their nets and went with Jesus. Jesus taught people, helped them, and showed God’s love. Jesus still calls us today to follow Him and share His light.

Wondering Questions:

- How do you think the fishermen felt when Jesus called them?
- How can we follow Jesus today?

Craft / Activity

“Follow the Light” Footsteps Craft

- Cut out paper footprints
- Children decorate them
- Write: “*I follow Jesus*”
- Tape footprints in a path leading to a picture of Jesus

Game

“Follow the Leader – Jesus Edition”

- One child leads simple actions (walk, help, wave, share)
- Say: “We follow Jesus by loving others!”

Song Suggestions

- “This Little Light of Mine”
- “I Will Follow” (simple chorus)
- “Jesus Loves Me”

Snack Suggestions

- **Goldfish crackers** (Jesus called fishermen)
- **Light snack:** crackers with cheese stars
- **Fruit slices** arranged in a circle (God's light all around)

Wrap-Up & Reflection

Ask:

- Who calls us to follow Him?
- What is Jesus like?
- How can we show Jesus' light this week?

Reinforce:

Jesus calls *everyone*. We follow Him together.

Closing Prayer

“Dear Jesus, thank you for calling us to follow you. Help us shine your light with love and kindness. Amen.”

Take-Home Idea

Send home:

- Footprint craft
- Memory verse card
- Suggest families say the verse together before bedtime

Teacher Notes

- Keep language concrete and joyful
- Repeat key phrases: *light, follow, Jesus*
- Movement helps children learn (walking, pointing, actions)
- Emphasize invitation, not pressure—Jesus lovingly calls

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany



Jesus said, "Follow me."

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Can you find 10 differences between the two pictures?



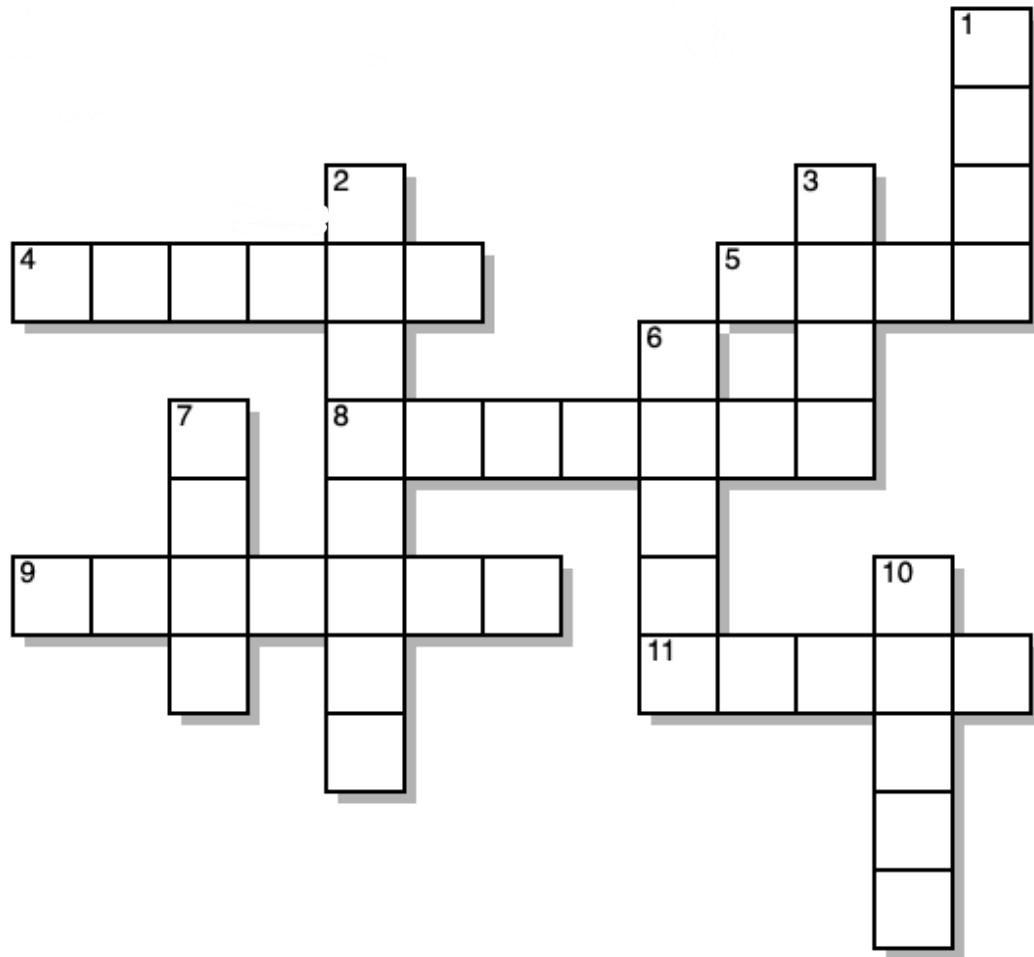
Jesus said, "Follow me."



Jesus said, "Come."

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany



ACROSS

- 4 Kinsfolk
- 5 Squab
- 8 Maid
- 9 Christening
- 11 Stream

DOWN

- 1 Adore
- 2 Benediction
- 3 Baptistry
- 6 Aqua
- 7 Expect
- 10 God's son



Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany

R	N	M	D	L	Y	J	L	R	W	X	K
D	N	Y	S	B	W	A	T	E	R	T	X
T	R	M	B	I	F	Q	L	V	N	N	L
G	G	L	W	A	T	M	E	A	K	O	D
L	N	R	M	M	N	P	V	V	V	W	T
P	T	I	J	S	G	R	A	E	O	N	P
J	L	V	S	U	E	Q	V	B	O	D	R
Y	K	E	Z	S	H	L	K	F	B	W	D
Y	B	R	J	E	E	O	M	D	L	Y	G
Q	Y	Q	R	J	J	L	P	T	N	B	J
G	Y	T	Q	X	R	T	B	E	B	Q	Y

Baptism
Jesus
Love
Family
Servant

Hope
Blessing
Water
River
Font
Dove

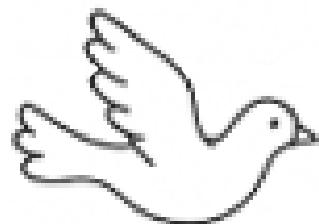


Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

25	19	10		11	20	17	19		22	17	12	13	12												
20	25	10		23	17	17	19																		
23	25	15	6	9	18	17	10	,	22	13	12	6													
25	12		20	17		26	25	4	17		13	15													
21	8	24	4		6	20	17		11	25	6	17	8												
12	13	10	10	17	19	7	2		6	20	17														
20	17	25	5	17	19	12		11	17	8	17														
24	15	17	19	17	10		6	24		20	9	4													
25	19	10		20	17		12	25	11		1	24	10												
12		12	15	9	8	9	6																		
10	17	12	26	17	19	10	9	19	1																
7	9	3	17		25		10	24	5	17															
25	19	10		25	7	9	1	20	6	9	19	1													
24	19		20	9	4																				



Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Epiphany is a word that describes a profound insight. It is a moment when something complex becomes clear, often leading to a deeper understanding or breakthrough. In the church it refers to the Christian feast celebrating the truth of Jesus to all of us.

Fill in the blanks of the story with the words in the box.

Words to Use				
Baptist	baptize	dove	Jesus	Jordan
love	loves	loving	pleased	sky
Son	Spirit	water		

Jesus Is Baptized

_____ went to the river _____. John the _____ was there. John said, "Jesus, you are very special."

Jesus said, "It is time. Please _____ me."

John gently poured _____ on Jesus.

When Jesus came out of the water, the _____ opened. God's _____ came down like a _____.

A _____ voice said, "**This is my _____.** I _____ him."

Jesus knew God was _____ with him.

And God _____ us too.



Spot the Difference - Key:

1. Message on the bottom.
2. Jesus' toes.
3. Man's beard.
4. Sun's rays.
5. Bird.
6. Jesus' belt.
7. Line on the road.
8. Fish in the net.
9. Fishing boat.
10. Fisherman's neckline.

Crossword – Key:

Across	Down
4. Family	1. Love
5. Dove	2. Blessing
8. Servant	3. Font
9. Baptism	6. Water
11. River	7. Hope
	10. Jesus

Cryptogram – Key:

Matthew 3:16

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Fill in the blank – Key:

Jesus Is Baptized

Jesus went to the river Jordan. John the Baptist was there. John said, "Jesus, you are very special."

Jesus said, "It is time. Please baptize me."

John gently poured water on Jesus.

When Jesus came out of the water, the sky opened. God's Spirit came down like a dove.

A loving voice said, "**This is my Son. I love him.**"

Jesus knew God was pleased with him.

And God loves us too.