

JANUARY 14, 2018  
SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*We are all called to be God's servants.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God with your body
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Genesis 28:10-17	God blesses Jacob
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Called to be saints
Saturday	Psalms 139	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

**Psalms 139:1-2 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Jesus, Son of God, you have searched me and known me. Thank you for calling me to follow you as a beloved child of God. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who knows when you sit down and when you rise up, who is acquainted with all your ways, give you the freedom to serve the world with joy.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Calls Us;  
o'er the Tumult*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What does it mean to you to be called by God?
- When have you sensed God calling you to be a servant of God's love?
- Psalm 139 speaks of a God who knows us and cares for us very intimately. What does it mean to you to have a God who cares for you and knows you so personally?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Samuel 3:9-10.

It is easy to accept that pastors have a call from God, but we all have a call from God, one that begins in baptism. Eli tells Samuel to listen to God's call to Samuel. Philip tells Nathanael to "come and see" (John 1:46). Psalm 139 gives praise to God who knows and cares for the psalmist quite personally (verses 1-3). When do you sense the call and care of God? Who helps you listen to and recognize God in your life? Pray the following prayer:

*Pray:* Dear God, you have called me by name and send me out into your world to do your work and will each day. Help me to hear your voice and to do your will for the sake of Christ who has come to bring salvation to all. Amen.

### SERVICE

When Jesus called Philip to follow him, Philip wanted to share the good news of Jesus with his friend Nathanael. It is an example of faith that is formed through, personal, trusted relationships. Identify a personal friend or family member to share the love and hope that Jesus brings. It can be someone who is already Christian and who could use the encouragement of your own faith practice. Fellow Christians also need the affirmation of faith that others can bring. Consider using portions of *Taking Faith Home* with that person to initiate conversation and prayer.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 offers one of the most personal and intimate expressions of God's care and presence for one's life in the Bible. Like the Apostle Paul states in Romans 8:38-39, nothing can separate us from God's love. Read Psalm 139 slowly several times and select a verse to reflect on during the week, one that perhaps has special meaning for your current circumstances. Memorize and pray the verse during the week.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)