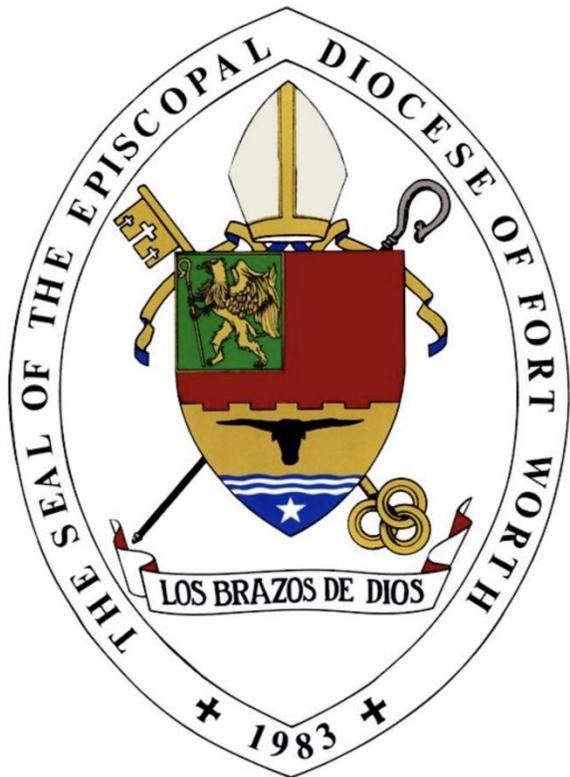


# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**SECOND  
TO LAST  
SUNDAY OF  
EPIPHANY,  
YEAR A**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission  
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

# Sunday School Curriculum for the Second to Last Sunday of Epiphany, Year A

## **Lectionary Texts:**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 67

Acts 1:1-8

Matthew 9:35-38

## **Isaiah 49:1-7**

People who live on the islands, listen to me.

Pay attention, you nations far away.

Before I was born the Lord chose me to serve him.

Before I was born the Lord spoke my name.

He made my words like a sharp sword.

He hid me in the palm of his hand.

He made me into a sharpened arrow.

He took good care of me and kept me safe.

He said to me, "You are my true servant Israel.

I will show my glory through you."

But I said, "In spite of my hard work,

I feel as if I haven't accomplished anything.

I've used up all my strength.

It seems as if everything I've done is worthless.

But the Lord will give me what I should receive.

My God will reward me."

The Lord formed me in my mother's body to be his servant.

He wanted me to bring the family of Jacob back to him.

He wanted me to gather the people of Israel to himself.

The Lord will honor me.

My God will give me strength.

Here is what the Lord says to me.

"It is not enough for you as my servant

to bring the tribes of Jacob back to their land.

It is not enough for you to bring back

the people of Israel I have kept alive.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles.

Then you will make it possible for the whole world to be saved."

The Lord sets his people free.

He is the Holy One of Israel.

He speaks to his servant, who is looked down on and hated by the nations.

He speaks to the servant of rulers. He says to him,

“Kings will see you and stand up to honor you.

Princes will see you and bow down to show you their respect.

I am the Lord. I am faithful.

I am the Holy One of Israel.

I have chosen you.”

### **Psalm 67**

God, have mercy on us and bless us.

May you be pleased with us.

Then your ways will be known on earth.

All nations will see that you have the power to save.

God, may the nations praise you.

May all the people on earth praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

You rule the people of the earth fairly.

You guide the nations of the earth.

God, may the nations praise you.

May all the people on earth praise you.

The land produces its crops.

God, our God, blesses us.

May God continue to bless us.

Then people from one end of the earth to the other  
will have respect for him.

### **Acts 1:1-8**

Theophilus, I wrote about Jesus in my earlier book. I wrote about all he did and taught<sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven. Before Jesus left, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen. He did this through the Holy Spirit. After his suffering and death, he appeared to them. In many ways he proved that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. During that time he spoke about God’s kingdom. One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. “Do not leave Jerusalem,” he said. “Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and asked him a question. “Lord,” they said, “are you going to give the kingdom back to Israel now?”

He said to them, "You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other." So the one who plants is not important. The one who waters is not important. It is God who makes things grow. He is the One who is important. The one who plants and the one who waters have the same purpose. The Lord will give each of us a reward for our work.

### **Matthew 9:35-38**

Jesus went through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues. He preached the good news of the kingdom. And he healed every illness and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he felt deep concern for them. They were treated badly and were helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is huge. But there are only a few workers. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest field."

### **Overview of the Texts:**

Today is World Mission Sunday and each of our texts point us to the sharing of God's Word with others, from one end of the earth to the other. Our Gospel reading says that Jesus "felt deep concern for" the crowds of people around him and asked the disciples to pray for the workers to be sent into the harvest field. Just as Isaiah was chosen from before his birth to share God's message, we are chosen to share his message and be those workers in the harvest. Just as God provided Isaiah with the ability and the provision to do the work God had called him to, we are given the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to share God's Message: the gospel, the good news of Jesus.

PreK-Kinder / Pre-Reader Lesson Plan:

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**Opening Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

### **Supplies & Preparation:**

Supplies: 2 pictures of Jesus, one with the crowds of people, and one with sheaves of wheat; strips of paper with sheaves of wheat printed on them, at least one for each child; strips of paper with a person printed on them, at least one for each child.

Preparation: Print pictures of Jesus. Print and cut out strips with wheat and people.





## **Discussion:**

- Read verses 35-38 of the Gospel lesson. Show the children the picture of Jesus with the crowds.
- How did Jesus feel about the crowds around him?
  - Jesus had deep concern because the people were treated badly.
  - Jesus showed his love through helping the people.
- What did Jesus do for the people?
  - He healed every illness and sickness
  - He told them the good news
  - He taught in their synagogues.
  - He asked the disciples to pray for them.
- Then Jesus said something different to the disciples. (Read vs 38 and show the picture of Jesus with the wheat harvest, next to the first picture.). Do you think Jesus was concerned about the wheat or with the people?
- Harvesting is gathering up all the wheat and bringing it into the storehouse. How can we “harvest” people? (help them, feed them, teach them, tell them about Jesus, bring them to church, bring them into God’s kingdom,...)

## **Activity:**

“Let’s practice harvesting.” Show children a strip with the wheat picture. Spread them out in an area on the floor or place them around the room. Tell the students to gather up their wheat and bring it back to the master of the harvest. Pile them in front of the picture of Jesus with the sheaves of wheat.

“Can we harvest people too, like the disciples?” Repeat with the strips printed with people, piling them in front of the picture of Jesus with the crowds.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord’s Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan

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**Opening Prayer:** Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be

## **Supplies & Preparation:**

Supplies: Drawing of a lightbulb, one for each student, pencils or markers, small flashlights if available.

Preparation: None

## Lesson:

Discussion:

- Have you ever had a job to do that felt important?
- What are some jobs God might give people?

Today we're going to hear about how God has a special job for His people—to shine His light and tell others about His love.

### *God's Light Is for Everyone*

Read Isaiah 49:1–7 & Psalm 67

- God tells His servant, “*You will be a light for the nations.*”
- That means God's love isn't just for one group—it's for everyone, everywhere.
- Psalm 67 is like a happy song asking God to bless the whole world so all people can know Him. God wants His light to shine so bright that people everywhere can see how good He is!
- Have children pretend to turn on a flashlight and shine it around the room, or use real flashlights if you have them.

### *Jesus Sends His Friends*

Read Acts 1:1–8

- After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His friends: “You will be my witnesses.”
- A witness is someone who tells what they know is true.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would help them.

### *Jesus Cares About People*

Read Matthew 9:35–38

Explain:

- Jesus saw people who were confused, tired, and hurting.
- He loved them and wanted to help them.
- Jesus said the world is like a big field ready for harvest—but we need helpers.

Jesus wants us to help care for people—by being kind, by praying, and by telling them about God's love.

Discussion Questions

1. Who does God love? (Everyone!)
2. How can we be God's light at school or at home?

3. Who helps us tell others about Jesus? (The Holy Spirit)
4. What is one way you can shine Jesus' light this week?

**Activity:**

Option 1: Light to the World Craft

- Give each child a paper sun or light bulb.
- Write inside: "I can shine God's light by..."
- Let them draw or write one way they can show God's love.

Option 2: Harvest Helpers Game

- Scatter paper "hearts" or "people" around the room.
- Children work together to collect them.
- Say: "When we work together, we help bring God's love to others."

**Memory Verse:**

From Acts 1:8: "You will be my witnesses."

Add motions:

- *You* → point to self
- *will be* → nod head
- *my witnesses* → move both hands, flat palm outward from your mouth

**Closing Prayer:** The Collect of the Day

Junior High/Senior High Lesson Plan:

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**Opening Prayer:** Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Hail Mary

**Supplies & Preparation:** paper, pencils or markers

**Discussion:**

"If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?"

Have students:

- Turn and talk with a partner for 1–2 minutes
- Share a few responses with the group

The Bible shows us that God also sees what's broken in the world—and He has a plan to heal it.

Read Isaiah 49:1–7 & Psalm 67

- God’s mission was always global.
- God’s servant is called to be “a light to the nations.”
- This isn’t just about Israel; it’s about everyone.
- Psalm 67 is a prayer that God’s ways would be known among all nations.
- Why do you think God wants *all* people to know Him?
- What does it mean to be “a light”?

Read Acts 1:1–8

- Jesus sends ordinary people.
- Jesus gives His followers a mission—but also a promise
- The Holy Spirit gives power, courage, and guidance
- The mission starts close to home and moves outward
- Why do you think Jesus didn’t just do everything Himself?
- What might “being a witness” look like for you?

Read Matthew 9:35–38

- Jesus feels compassion.
- Jesus sees crowds who are confused, hurting, and tired
- He feels compassion—not annoyance
- He says the harvest is ready, but workers are needed
- What kinds of “lost” or hurting people exist today?
- Why do you think Jesus tells His followers to *pray* for workers?

Group Discussion

- Where do you see God’s heart for the world in these passages?
- What makes it hard to care about people you don’t know?
- What’s one way students your age can reflect Jesus’ compassion?
- Reflection question (silent or shared): Where might God be inviting you to care more, speak up, or step out?

**Activity:**

Option A: Personal Mission Map

- Give students paper
- Draw three circles:
  - My world (school, friends, family)
  - My city/community
  - The world
- Have students write one way they could show God’s love in each circle.

Option B: Prayer Focus

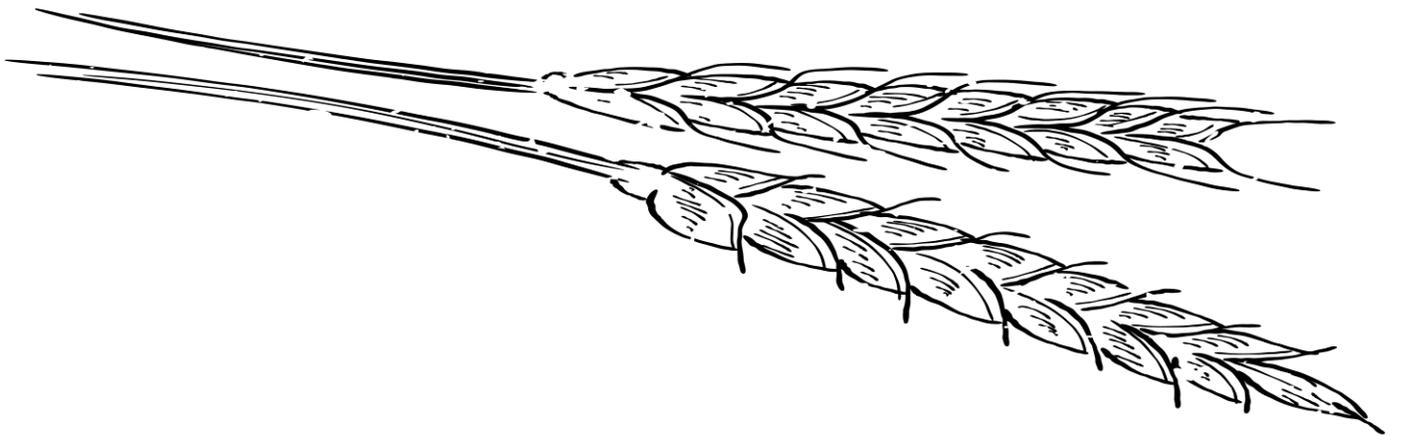
- Invite students to write:
  - One group of people they want to pray for
  - One way they want God to use them

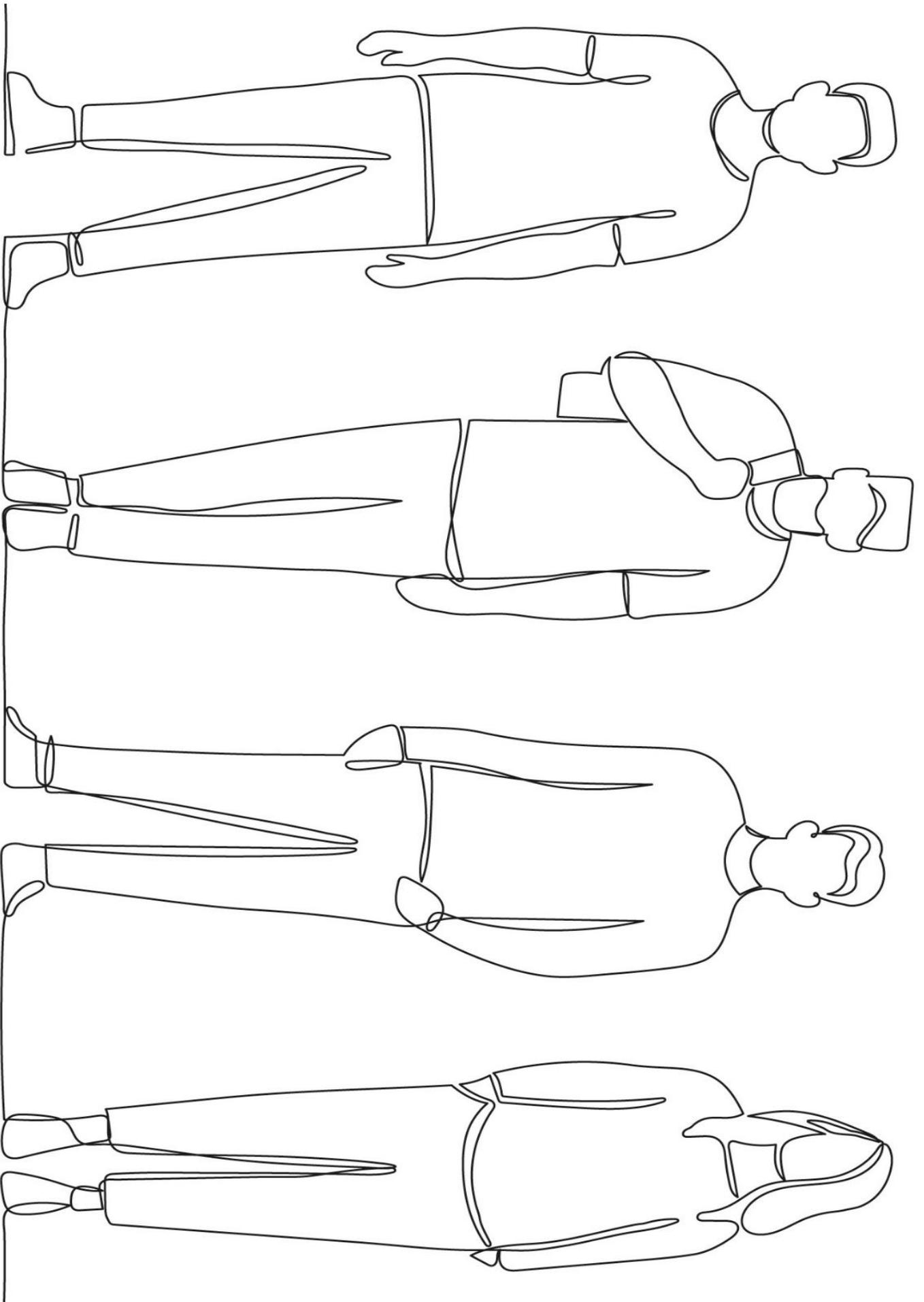
**Memory Verse:**

Acts 1:8 (shortened): “You will be my witnesses.”

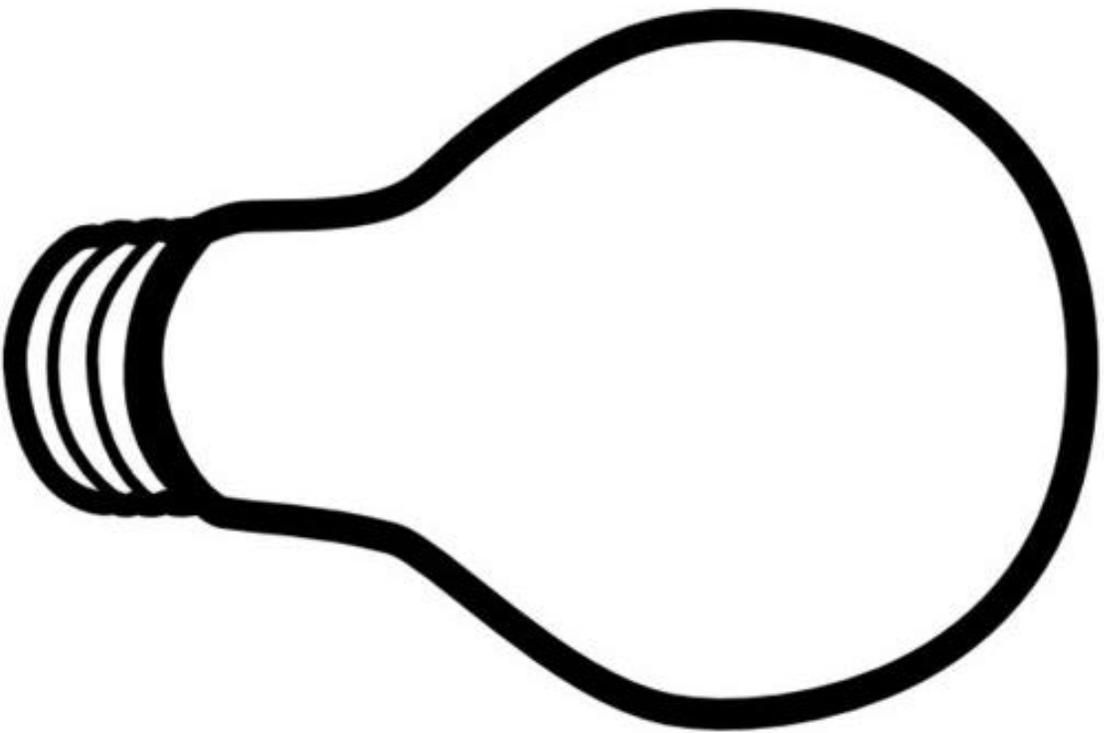
Challenge students to explain what this verse means *in their own words*.

**Closing Prayer:** The Collect of the Day





I can shine God's light by...



I can shine God's light by...

