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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for January 17, 2021

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [John 1:43-51](#) [Summary: *Jesus Lets God's Light In*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I would like to talk with you about windows. Why do you think we have windows? [*To see into something; to see out of something*]
- Hmm...why do you think that is useful? [*Because it allows us to see where otherwise there would just be a wall; it allows light in*]
- Oh! So like the windows here in the sanctuary help us see outside and because we can see outside and the sunlight can get inside!
- Well, then, windows are pretty good and useful things, aren't they!?

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, we hear Philip tell his friend, Nathanael, about Jesus.
- Nathanael isn't nearly as excited about Jesus as Philip is, but Nathanael *does* agree to go and meet Jesus.
- When Jesus and Nathanael meet, Jesus then says some things that help Nathanael know that Jesus really understands him.
- It is almost like Jesus can see into Nathanael's brain and read the thoughts he is thinking and Nathanael thinks that is pretty cool.
- But then Jesus tells him, "If you think that's cool, just wait until I help you see *heaven* open up!"

- Nathanael agrees that would be even more amazing and chooses to follow Jesus as a disciple.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- What Jesus meant by “seeing heaven open up” is that if Nathanael or Philip or anyone else chooses to follow Jesus and learn what Jesus is teaching them, then they will be better able to see who God is and what God wants for us.
- What I like about today’s story is the reminder that when the disciples follow Jesus and learn from him, Jesus is like a window that helps the disciples better see and know God.
- But, the disciples don’t *just* learn from Jesus how to see. They also learn how to become a window that lets God’s light shine through them which helps even more people be able to see who God is.
- And guess what!? It’s not just the first disciples who could be windows that let God’s light shine into this world.
- We, too, can choose to follow Jesus and learn what he taught the disciples about God.
- And as we learn what Jesus taught, then we are learning how to be a window that shines God’s light into the world and helps other people see God better.
- And that’s the Good News for today. Let’s pray.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who lets your light...

...who lets your light...

...shine through him...

...shine through him...

...which helps us see you better.

...which helps us see you better.

Please help us...

Please help us...

...to do the same for others.

...to do the same for others.

Thank you and amen.