

Main Scripture: John 1:29-34

Setting the context: Isaiah 40:3-8

Message Title: Imagine an Epiphany

John teaches us three things:

1. Prepare the Way
2. Point in the right direction
3. Proclaim Good News

John Testifies About Jesus

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."^[f]

What is the meaning of Epiphany?

What is Epiphany

Observed on January 6th, the Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name

"Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- 1. What did John teach us about identity?**
- 2. How did John relate to Jesus?**
- 3. What did John mean in verse #31 when he says (³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.)?**
- 4. How did John point the way?**
- 5. What was unique about John's baptism?**
- 6. How did John explain his relationship with Jesus?**

Digging Deeper? Have you had an Epiphany? In what ways has God been revealed to you?

Prayer Focus: Dear God, thank you for giving us an opportunity to have life through your Son, Jesus the Christ!

Help me to be strong in proclaiming the Good News!