

**An Epiphany Activity:
How well do you know your Bible on Epiphany?**



Fill in the blanks for these Bible verses relating to Epiphany.

1. "Arise, _____; for your _____ has come, and the _____ of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).

("Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" [Isaiah 60:1].)

Read Isaiah 60:1-3, and note that in John 8:12 and 9:5 Jesus calls himself the "Light of the world." John 1:4 and 12:35 also make reference to Jesus as the Light; and in Matthew 5:14, Jesus charges his disciples with being like him in serving as the "light of the world."

2. "In the time of King _____, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, _____ from the East came to _____, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born _____ of the Jews? For we observed his _____ at its _____, and have come to pay him homage'" (Matthew 2:1-2).

("In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage'" [Matthew 2:1-2].)

Here Matthew demonstrates Jesus' true kingship over Herod's by means of the magi's request: they approach "king" Herod in order to find and worship the true king of the Jews—Jesus, the Light of the world, whose birth is announced to the wise men by the light of a star. God uses this ancient symbol of royalty to draw them from far-off lands to the King of all kings in response to the prophet's call: "Arise, shine; for your light has come!" (Isaiah 60:1).

3. "And when Jesus had been _____, just as he came up from the _____, suddenly the heavens were _____ to him and he saw the Spirit of God _____ like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from _____ said, 'This is my _____, the _____, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16-17).

("And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased'" [Matthew 3:16-17].)

Jesus' baptism relates to the season of Epiphany because it is in this event, at the outset of Jesus' ministry, that God reveals Jesus' identity as divine, as a member of the Trinity. Matthew presents God's words to Jesus as an introduction or announcement about Jesus to the other people standing around him; in Mark 1:11 and Luke 3:22, God instead addresses Jesus directly at this event: "You are my Son . . . with you I am well pleased." In John 1:34, it is Jesus' baptizer, John the Baptist, who identifies his deity by declaring, "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

4. "Jesus did this, the first of his _____, in _____ of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples _____ in him" (John 2:11).

("Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him" [John 2:11].)

The Gospel writer John calls Jesus' miracles "signs," which relates to our words "signal" and "signify." The verb in Greek means "to make known." John makes it clear that all the "signs" of Jesus had the purpose of revealing his Messiahship so that people would believe in him. Other "signs" recorded in John include: healing the royal official's son in Capernaum (4:46-54); healing the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-15); feeding the 5000 (6:5-14); walking on water (6:16-24); healing the man born blind (9:1-7); raising Lazarus (11:1-45); and Jesus crucifixion and resurrection (2:18-19). But John makes it clear that "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (20:30-31).

5. ". . . Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high _____, by themselves. And he was _____ before them, and his face _____ like the _____, and his clothes became _____ . . . suddenly a bright _____ overshadowed them, and from the _____ a voice said, 'This is my _____, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; _____ to him!'" (Matthew 17:1-2, 5).

(" . . . Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. . . suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'" [Matthew 17:1-2, 5].)

Matthew records the account of Jesus' transfiguration following Peter's confession of Jesus' Messiahship in the immediately preceding chapter: ". . . who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven'" (Matthew 16:15-17). Mark (9:2-8) and Luke (9:28-36) also record the Transfiguration, and 2 Peter 1:16-18 also recalls the awe-inspiring event.

6. "I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured _____ and have the knowledge of God's _____, that is, Christ himself, in whom are _____ all the _____ of wisdom and knowledge " (Colossians 2:2-3).

("I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge " [Colossians 2:2-3].)

In the Bible, a "mystery" is something that is hidden until revealed by heaven, and the Apostle Paul uses the word 20 times in his New Testament letters. The mystery of God is Jesus Christ, who according to

Hebrews 1:3 “is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being”—the Divine Epiphany! Thanks be to God!