

January 29, 2023

BEAUTIFUL VISION

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

In stories of call and teaching that turn our world view upside down, we glimpse a re-imagined realm and, together and apart, we reflect on our call as individuals and as a community.



The Season after the Epiphany begins with words of affirmation, “You are my beloved.” We hear echoes of that blessing in the weeks that follow, in the beginnings of discipleship and the ways that we are invited to see ourselves.

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As we begin a three-week series on the Sermon on the Mount, we glimpse a re-imagined realm this week.

Dreaming with God

Read [Matthew 5:1–12](#) or **listen** to the audio story “[Favour](#)” or **gather** around as someone tells the story “[God’s Dream – Part I](#)” in this week’s Exploring Our Faith.

The vision, or re-imagined realm that Jesus teaches from up on the mountain, is not just an idealized notion of a renewed world. It doesn’t just turn everything known upside down but invites us to dream of a wonderful world.

- **What do you dream about when you fall asleep?**
- **What dreams enter into your thoughts in the daytime?**
- **When does it feel like God is dreaming with you?**

Read [Teach Kids to Daydream](#) to explore how you might share in daydreaming in your family. Reflect together on questions like:

- **When do we allow ourselves to be?**
- **Where do you like to daydream?**
- **How can we help each other have places to use our imaginations?**

Explore, Make, Craft

Explore your dreams this week. Make them the topic of breakfast conversation and maybe even make a [dream journal](#) to help you remember all you dare to dream.

Make a [fold-up vision book](#) to carry in your backpack and remember the beautiful vision you are imagining with God.

Craft some [binoculars](#) to help you see God’s dream in the world around you.

Practice the [action rhyme](#) on this week’s Exploring Our Faith to say together each day this week.

Blessing Pennant

Follow the [instructions](#) on this week’s activity sheet in Exploring Our Faith to make a blessing pennant.



During the Week

Prepare the table

Imagine how you might prepare a place for the favouredness in each person at your dining room table. Purchase a discount tablecloth or placemats and table linens. Use sharpies on these new table linens to illustrate the kind of welcome Jesus invites us to imagine. You might draw pictures of the poor in spirit and the peacemakers. Or you might use words of blessing on your table linens – words like mercy and comfort from Jesus' sermon might be a starting point – to remind all who gather at your table of their favouredness by God.

God's dream

Find a copy of Desmond Tutu's *God's Dream* to read to your children at bedtime. Bring this beautiful vision into your bedtime prayers by sharing in God's dream with things that you pray will come into the world.

Catching the vision

Take [your new binoculars](#) on a walk through the neighbourhood to look for hints that God's dream is already being realized. Venture out at different times of day this week to see if you might see the world around you differently.

Prayer

Thank you, O God, for your vision.
May we be dreamers with you,
now and always. Amen.

Listen to the song "What Does Our God Require of Us?" (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase and download).
Visit [Lection Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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