

LIVING THE WORD
Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

2023-2024

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title
God Creates Family	9/10/2023	Pentecost 15	#2-1	Genesis 2:4b-25	God Creates Humans
	9/17/2023	Pentecost 16	#2-2	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	God Gives a Promised Child
	9/24/2023	Pentecost 17	#2-3	Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30	Jacob Wrestles
Responding to God's Love	10/1/2023	Pentecost 18	#2-4	Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15–2:10]; 3:1-15	Moses and the Burning Bush
	10/8/2023	Pentecost 19	#2-5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9	Love the Lord Your God
	10/15/2023	Pentecost 20	#2-6	Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]	Ruth Follows Naomi
God's Way of Leading	10/22/2023	Pentecost 21	#2-7	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150	David Becomes King
	10/29/2023	Pentecost 22	#2-8	1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29	The Kingdom Divided
	11/5/2023	All Saints' (Pentecost	#2-9	1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39	Fire from Heaven
Our Sin, God's Faithfulness	11/12/2023	Pentecost 24	#2-10	Hosea 11:1-9	God's Beloved Children
	11/19/2023	Pentecost 25	#2-11	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5	Israel, God's Vineyard
	11/26/2023	Christ the King	#2-12	2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3	Josiah Finds the Scroll
Promises Made, Promises Kept	12/3/2023	Advent 1	#2-13	Jeremiah 33:[10-11] 14-18	A Righteous Branch
	12/10/2023	Advent 2	#2-14	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort My People
	12/17/2023	Advent 3	#2-15	Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13	Returning from Exile
	12/24/2023	Advent 4/Christmas	#2-16	Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80	The Birth of John the Baptist
God's Kingdom Announced	1/7/2024	Epiphany 1	#2-17*	Mark 1:1-20; Mark 2:1-22	Jesus' Ministry Begins
	1/14/2024	Epiphany 2	#2-18	Mark 4:1-34	Jesus Teaches in Parables
The Power of the Kingdom	1/21/2024	Epiphany 3	#2-19	Mark 5:1-20	Jesus Heals an Outcast
	1/28/2024	Epiphany 4	#2-20	Mark 5:21-43	A Woman Healed, a Girl
	2/4/2024	Epiphany 5	#2-21	Mark 6:1-29	Jesus Sends the Twelve
	2/11/2024	Transfiguration	#2-22	Mark 8:27--9:8	Transfiguration
The Call to Serve	2/18/2024	Lent 1	#2-23	Mark 10:17-31	Jesus and the Rich Man
	2/25/2024	Lent 2	#2-24	Mark 10:32-52	Jesus Came to Serve
	3/3/2024	Lent 3	#2-25	Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]	The Wicked Tenants
	3/10/2024	Lent 4	#2-26	Mark 12:28-44	The Widow's Gift
God's Triumph	3/17/2024	Lent 5	#2-27	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	The End of the Age
	3/24/2024	Palm/Passion Sunday	#2-28*	Mark 11:1-11; 15:16-39; 16:1-8	Holy Week & Easter
God Works through Us	4/7/2024	Easter 2	#2-29	Acts 1:1-14	Jesus Commissions the Disciples
	4/14/2024	Easter 3	#2-30	Acts 3:1-10	Peter Heals
	4/21/2024	Easter 4	#2-31	Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The Church at Thessalonica
	4/28/2024	Easter 5	#2-32	Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	The Church at Corinth
The Power of God's Love	5/5/2024	Easter 6	#2-33	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The Greatest Is Love
	5/12/2024	Easter 7	#2-34	1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57	Death, the Last Enemy
	5/19/2024	Pentecost	#2-35	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Many Gifts, One Spirit

* Lessons #2-17 and 2-28 are extended lessons in the following products: *Kids (PK-2nd)*, *Kids (3rd-6th)*, *Youth*, *Small Groups*, and *Cross+Gen Education*. There are not separate lessons created for 12/31/2023 (Sunday after Christmas) or 3/31/2024 (Easter Sunday). These Scripture readings are included in the following week's lesson, which are extended to be used over one or two weeks.

LIVING THE WORD
Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2

2023-2024 Themes

Living out God's Kingdom (Year 2, 2023-2024)

God's plan for our world has not changed since the moment of creation. God created a world for people to work side-by-side in a community of love. However, humanity rejected that ideal and turned to selfishness. God never gave up. Throughout Scripture, God established a vision of a peaceful kingdom. God's people continued to turn away, and God continued to love them. From this love came a promise of a future leader who would establish God's kingdom for everyone. This Messiah, Jesus, embodied the kingdom of God in his life and ministry. Jesus' mission led to his death on a cross, but through his sacrifice he triumphed over sin and death. After his resurrection, Jesus commissioned his followers and gave them his Holy Spirit. It was now their work to spread the good news throughout the world, including the promise of the end of death and the final arrival of the kingdom.

God Creates Family

(Pentecost: Sept. 10 to Sept. 24, 2023)

God created the first family to do God's work together (Genesis 2). God promised a baby to an elderly couple, which God kept with the birth of Isaac (Genesis 18 & 21). Isaac's son Jacob cheated his brother and feared revenge when he returned years later. After wrestling with a stranger, Jacob prevailed. He was blessed and given the name Israel (Genesis 32).

Responding to God's Love

(Pentecost: Oct. 1 to Oct. 15, 2023)

A clear theme throughout Scripture is that God loves us. When the people of Israel were in slavery, God showed love by rescuing them (Exodus 3). When we experience God's love, we are called to respond with love. We are to love God and to love others (Deuteronomy 5 & 6). The story of Ruth's love and loyalty toward Naomi provides a beautiful example for us to follow (Ruth 1).

God's Way of Leading

(Pentecost: Oct. 22 to Nov. 5, 2023)

The history of God's people is filled with examples of both good and bad leaders. God chose David to shepherd all of Israel. David became an example of a flawed, but faithful servant leader (2 Samuel 5 & 6). However, Rehoboam did not follow his grandfather's example. He rejected advice to become a servant leader, and his actions split the kingdom (1 Kings 12). After the kingdom was divided, Queen Jezebel and King Ahab led the people to serve the Canaanite god, Baal. In contrast, Elijah serves the LORD. The LORD is proven the one true God by sending fire from heaven, vindicating Elijah's leadership (1 Kings 18).

Our Sin, God's Faithfulness

(Pentecost: Nov. 12 to Nov. 26, 2023)

Both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah disobeyed God's Torah. Instead of loving God with all they had, they worshipped other gods. Instead of loving their neighbors, the powerful oppressed the powerless. However, God never stopped loving the people and kept calling them back from their disobedience (Hosea 11). God expected justice from the people but saw injustice, and so God allowed the people to experience the consequences of their sin. God did not stop there but promised to send a righteous leader (Isaiah 5 & 11). Generations later, the faithful king Josiah found a Book of the Law in the temple. He was horrified by the people's sin and repented on behalf of the people (2 Kings 22 & 23).

Promises Made, Promises Kept

(Advent & Christmas: Dec. 3 to Dec. 25, 2023)

Our God is a God of promises. The people committed idolatry and injustice, so God gave them a consequence for their sin: destruction and exile. But, God promised to send a leader to establish a kingdom of peace and justice (Jeremiah 33). Even before that peaceful kingdom came, God promised to comfort the people and bring them back from their exile (Isaiah 40). God kept that promise, when the people could return to their land and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1 & 3). The miraculous birth of John the Baptizer signaled that the promise of the Messiah would soon be fulfilled (Luke 1). This promise was finally kept with the birth of Jesus, the Son of God (Luke 2).

LIVING THE WORD
Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2

2023-2024 Themes

God's Kingdom Announced
(Christmas & Epiphany: Dec. 31, 2023 to Jan. 14, 2024)
The Gospel of Mark begins with John the Baptizer announcing the coming of the Messiah. The Gospel then tells about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' ministry centered on the announcement that the kingdom of God was near, the kingdom of peace and justice promised through the prophets (Mark 1). This kingdom could be seen in the actions of Jesus as he healed many (Mark 1), loved and forgave sinners (Mark 2), and taught using parables (Mark 4).

The Power of the Kingdom
(Epiphany: Jan. 21 to Transfiguration: Feb. 11, 2024)
The people saw the power of God at work in Jesus' ministry. He showed them that his kingdom was a new reality of freedom and wholeness. Even Gentiles saw the power of God's kingdom when Jesus freed a man from a legion of unclean spirits (Mark 5). He demonstrated power over disease and death when he healed a grown woman and brought a young girl back to life (Mark 5). Jesus shared this power with twelve disciples and sent them out multiply his ministry (Mark 6). Finally, Jesus revealed his identify as the Messiah to Peter, James, and John when he was transfigured before their eyes (Mark 8 & 9).

The Call to Serve ***(Lent: Feb. 14 to Mar. 10, 2024)***
We are called to love God and each other. We follow these greatest commandments (Mark 12) with acts of service toward God and others. Therefore, the greatest in God's kingdom are those who are servants to all (Mark 9). Service toward others is more important than wealth or power (Mark 10). Jesus is the greatest in the kingdom, not by being the most powerful, but by being the perfect servant (Mark 10). Leaders who act selfishly are poor stewards of what God has given them. Instead, we should build our loving community on Jesus, the cornerstone of God's kingdom (Mark 12). God's true temple is not a building made of stone, but the hearts of those who, through faith, obey the commandments to love (Mark 12).

God's Triumph
(Lent, Holy Week & Easter: Mar. 17 to Mar. 31, 2024)
We do not yet live fully in God's kingdom, but in a world of selfishness. We see the kingdom breaking through in small ways as people live out God's vision. But God is in charge and will triumph over evil. Both our suffering and success are only temporary. This message can sound scary, but it is truly a message of hope (Mark 13). The people celebrated this hope when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem (Mark 11). A woman honors Jesus as the Messiah when she anoints him with a costly perfume (Mark 14). Little did the people understand that God's greatest triumph would come, not through military victory, but through the Messiah's painful death on a cross (Mark 15). Jesus dreaded this path, but he courageously followed God's will (Mark 14). This story does not end when Jesus's body was placed in a tomb. Instead, Jesus triumphs over death itself by rising again and leaving that tomb empty (Mark 16).

God Works through Us ***(Easter: Apr. 7 to Apr. 28, 2024)***
The resurrection of Jesus is only the beginning of God's mission for the world. Before his ascension, Jesus sends out his followers to spread God's kingdom (Acts 1). These apostles continue Jesus' work, empowered by God's own Spirit (Acts 3). One way we can do God's work is by being examples of love (Acts 17; 1 Thessalonians 1). Unity in the church comes from God working through us so that the good news of Jesus continues to spread (Acts 18; 1 Corinthians 1).

The Power of God's Love
(Easter: May 5 to Pentecost Sunday: May 19, 2024)
Not only are we called to live God's love, but God gives us the power to do so. Love makes our actions truly worthwhile, as Paul beautifully describes (1 Corinthians 13). God gives us gifts through the Holy Spirit so that we can accomplish our mission as the Body of Christ (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12). It is the power of God's love that creates God's kingdom on earth and will bring resurrection for us all (1 Corinthians 15).