



Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story
God Creates Family	9/8/2019	Rally Day	#2-1	Genesis 2:4b-25	God Creates Humans
	9/15/2019	Pentecost 14	#2-2	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	God Gives a Promised Child
	9/22/2019	Pentecost 15	#2-3	Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30	Jacob Wrestles
Responding to God's Love	9/29/2019	Pentecost 16	#2-4	Exodus 1:8-14 [15-2:10]; 3:1-15	Moses and the Burning Bush
	10/6/2019	Pentecost 17	#2-5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9	Love the Lord Your God
	10/13/2019	Pentecost 18	#2-6	Ruth 1:1-17	Ruth Follows Naomi
God's Way of Leading	10/20/2019	Pentecost 19	#2-7	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150	David Becomes King
	10/27/2019	Pentecost 20	#2-8	1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29	The Kingdom Divided
	11/3/2019	Pentecost 21	#2-9	1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39	Fire from Heaven
Our Sin, God's Faithfulness	11/10/2019	Pentecost 22	#2-10	Hosea 11:1-9	God's Beloved Children
	11/17/2019	Pentecost 23	#2-11	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5	Israel, God's Vineyard
	11/24/2019	Christ the King	#2-12	2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3	Josiah Finds the Scroll
Promises Made, Promises Kept	12/1/2019	Advent 1/Thanksgiving	#2-13	Jeremiah 33:14-18	A Righteous Branch from David
	12/8/2019	Advent 2	#2-14	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort, Comfort My People
	12/15/2019	Advent 3	#2-15	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13	Returning from Exile
	12/22/2019	Advent 4	#2-16	Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80	The Birth of John the Baptist
God's Kingdom Announced	1/5/2020	Christmas 2	#2-17*	Mark 1:1-20; 21-45	Jesus' Ministry Begins
	1/12/2020	Epiphany 1	#2-18	Mark 2:1-22	Jesus Forgives Sins
	1/19/2020	Epiphany 2	#2-19	Mark 4:1-34	Jesus Teaches in Parables
The Power of the Kingdom	1/26/2020	Epiphany 3	#2-20	Mark 5:1-20	Jesus Heals an Outcast
	2/2/2020	Epiphany 4	#2-21	Mark 5:21-43	A Woman Healed, a Girl Raised
	2/9/2020	Epiphany 5	#2-22	Mark 6:1-29	Jesus Sends Out the Twelve
	2/16/2020	Epiphany 6	#2-23	Mark 7:1-23	What Makes You Unclean
	2/23/2020	Transfiguration	#2-24	Mark 8:27-9:8	Transfiguration
The Call to Serve	3/1/2020	Lent 1	#2-25	Mark 10:17-31	Jesus and the Rich Man
	3/8/2020	Lent 2	#2-26	Mark 10:32-52	Jesus Came to Serve
	3/15/2020	Lent 3	#2-27	Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]	Parable of the Wicked Tenants
	3/22/2020	Lent 4	#2-28	Mark 12:28-44	The Widow's Gift
God's Triumph	3/29/2020	Lent 5	#2-29	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	The End of the Age
	4/5/2020	Palm/Passion Sunday	#2-30*	Mark 11:1-11; 15:16-39; 16:1-8	Holy Week and Easter
God Works through Us	4/19/2020	Easter 2	#2-31	Acts 1:1-14	Jesus Commissions the Disciples
	4/26/2020	Easter 3	#2-32	Acts 3:1-10	Peter Heals
	5/3/2020	Easter 4	#2-33	Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The Church at Thessalonica
	5/10/2020	Easter 5	#2-34	Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	The Church at Corinth
The Power of God's Love	5/17/2020	Easter 6	#2-35	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The Greatest of These Is Love
	5/24/2020	Easter 7	#2-36	1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57	Death, the Last Enemy
	5/31/2020	Pentecost	#2-37	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Many Gifts, One Spirit

\* Lessons #2-17 and 2-30 will be extended lessons (longer lessons that include the passage for the previous Sunday) in the following curriculum products: Kids (PK-2<sup>nd</sup>), Kids (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>), Youth, Small Groups, and Cross+Gen Education. Therefore, there are not separate lessons created for 12/29/2019 (Sunday after Christmas) or 4/12/2020 (Easter Sunday).



## Living out God's Kingdom (Year 2, 2019-2020)

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, justice, and peace. However, humanity rejected that ideal and turned to selfishness, oppression, and violence. The world turned upside down, but 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 came in the person of Jesus whose ministry embodied the kingdom of God. 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. 8 to Sept. 22, 2019*

Our families, whatever they might look like, provide the love and nurture we need. Even when our families fail to give us love, God is always there as our loving parent. God created the first family to work together to do God's work (Genesis 2). God gave an elderly couple the impossible promise of a baby boy, which God kept with the birth of Isaac (Genesis 18 & 21). Isaac's son Jacob cheated his brother Esau, and Jacob feared Esau's revenge when he returned years later. After a night of struggle with a stranger, Jacob prevailed. He was blessed and given the name his descendants would claim for all generations, Israel (Genesis 32).

### Responding to God's Love

*Pentecost: Sept. 29 to Oct. 13, 2019*

One of the clear themes throughout Scripture is that God loves us. When the people of Israel were suffering in slavery, God showed love by rescuing them (Exodus 3). When we experience God's gracious love, we are called to respond with love. We are to love God and to love the people and creation that God has so lovingly made (Deuteronomy 5 & 6). The story of Ruth's love and loyalty toward her mother-in-law provides a beautiful example for us to follow (Ruth 1).

### God's Way of Leading

*Pentecost: Oct. 20 to Nov. 3, 2019*

The history of God's people is filled with examples of good leaders and those who led the people astray. God chose David to leave his sheep to shepherd all of Israel. David served God and his people, becoming an example of a flawed, but faithful servant leader (2 Samuel 5 & 6). However, Rehoboam did not follow his grandfather's example. At his coronation, he rejected the advice of his elders to become a servant leader. His actions split the kingdom (1 Kings 12). After the kingdom was divided, Queen Jezebel and her husband King Ahab led the people to serve the Canaanite god, Baal. In contrast, Elijah

serves the LORD. The LORD is shown to be the one true God by sending fire from heaven, vindicating Elijah's leadership (1 Kings 18).

### Our Sin, God's Faithfulness

*Pentecost: Nov. 10 to Nov. 24, 2019*

Both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah disobey God's Torah. Instead of loving God with all they had, they worshipped other gods. Instead of loving their neighbors, those who had power oppressed those who did not. 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 is horrified by how far the people have strayed from God's way and repented on behalf of the people (2 Kings 22 & 23).

### Faith in God's Promises

*Advent & Christmas: Dec. 1 to Dec. 25, 2019*

Our God is a God of promises. The people kept committing idolatry and injustice, so God gave them a consequence for their sin. Their temple was destroyed, and they were exiled from their homeland. But, God's promise went further than punishment. 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, after more than 50 years, the people could return to their land and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1 & 3). The miraculous birth of John, the forerunner and 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).



## **God's Kingdom Announced**

*Christmas & Epiphany: Dec. 29, 2019 to Jan. 19, 2020*

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 miraculous 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. 26 to Feb. 23, 2020*

The people could see 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). Jesus criticized the religious leaders for focusing on human traditions. When they did that, they ignored what was most important, loving and worshipping with a heart made clean by God's power (Mark 7). Finally, Jesus revealed his identity as the Messiah to Peter, James, and John when he was transfigured before their eyes (Mark 8 & 9).

## **The Call to Serve**

*Lent: Feb. 26 to Mar. 22, 2020*

We are called to love God and each other. However, this love is not a feeling or emotion, it is when we focus our hearts, minds, and wills on the good of another. In other words, it is when we serve someone else, the opposite of selfishness. Putting this love into action spreads the kingdom of God. We follow the 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 any wealth, possessions, or power we might have (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. 29 to Apr. 12, 2020*

We do not yet live fully in God's kingdom, but in a world of selfishness, oppression, and violence. We see the kingdom breaking in, often in small ways as people live out God's vision. But, the good news is that God is ultimately in charge and will triumph over all evil. Our suffering, and our success, is 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). An unnamed 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. 19 to May 10, 2020*

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 & Pentecost: May 17 to May 31, 2020*

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).