



Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story
Promises Made, Promises Broken	9/13/2020	Rally Day	#3-1	Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8	Creation and Fall
	9/20/2020	Pentecost 16	#3-2	Genesis 15:1-6	God's Promise to Abram
	9/27/2020	Pentecost 17	#3-3	Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21	Joseph and His Brothers
	10/4/2020	Pentecost 18	#3-4	Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8	The Promises of Passover
	10/11/2020	Pentecost 19	#3-5	Exodus 32:1-14	The Golden Calf
	10/18/2020	Pentecost 20	#3-6	1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10	Hannah Promises Samuel to God
	10/25/2020	Pentecost 21	#3-7	2 Samuel 7:1-17	God's Promise to David
God Sightings	11/1/2020	Pentecost 22	#3-8	1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]	The Widow of Zarephath
	11/8/2020	Pentecost 23	#3-9	Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]	Jonah and the Big Fish
	11/15/2020	Pentecost 24	#3-10	Isaiah 6:1-8	Isaiah's Vision in the Temple
	11/22/2020	Christ the King	#3-11	Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34	A New Covenant
The Hope of the Messiah	11/29/2020	Advent 1/Thanksgiving	#3-12	Daniel 6:6-27	Hope in the Lions' Den
	12/6/2020	Advent 2	#3-13	Joel 2:12-13, 28-29	Joel's Prophecy of Hope
	12/13/2020	Advent 3	#3-14	Isaiah 61:1-11	Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope
	12/20/2020	Advent 4	#3-15	Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]	Mary and Elizabeth's Visitors
Revelation of the Son of Man	1/3/2021	Christmas 2	#3-16*	Luke 2:21-38; 41-52	Jesus in the Temple
	1/10/2021	Epiphany 1	#3-17	Luke 3:1-22	Jesus and John the Baptist
	1/17/2021	Epiphany 2	#3-18	Luke 4:14-30	Jesus Brings Good News
	1/24/2021	Epiphany 3	#3-19	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus Fishes for People
	1/31/2021	Epiphany 4	#3-20	Luke 6:1-16	The Lord of the Sabbath
Jesus Heals	2/7/2021	Epiphany 5	#3-21	Luke 7:1-17	Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead
	2/14/2021	Transfiguration	#3-22	Luke 9:28-45	The Transfiguration
Journey to the Cross	2/21/2021	Lent 1	#3-23	Luke 10:25-42	The Samaritan, Martha and Mary
	2/28/2021	Lent 2	#3-24	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	Jesus Preaches Repentance
	3/7/2021	Lent 3	#3-25	Luke 15:1-32	The Lost Is Found
	3/14/2021	Lent 4	#3-26	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus
	3/21/2021	Lent 5	#3-27	Luke 18:31-19:10	Zacchaeus
	3/28/2021	Palm/Passion Sunday	#3-28*	Luke 19:29-40; 22:1-6, 14-23; 23:32-47	Holy Week
Birth of the Church	4/11/2021	Easter 2	#3-29*	Luke 24:1-12; 13-35	Jesus, Risen and Revealed
	4/18/2021	Easter 3	#3-30	Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60	Community and Condemnation
	4/25/2021	Easter 4	#3-31	Acts 8:26-39	Phillip Baptizes the Ethiopian
	5/2/2021	Easter 5	#3-32	Acts 15:1-18	The First Church Council
	5/9/2021	Easter 6	#3-33	Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21	Saved by Faith
	5/16/2021	Easter 7	#3-34	Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29	A Church Divided
	5/23/2021	Pentecost	#3-35	Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26]	God Sends the Holy Spirit

* Lessons #3-16 and 3-29 are extended lessons (longer lessons that include the passage for the previous Sunday) in the following curriculum products: *Kids (PK-2nd)*, *Kids (3rd-6th)*, *Youth*, *Small Groups*, and *Cross+Gen Education*. There are not separate lessons created for 12/27/2020 (Sunday after Christmas) or 4/4/2021 (Easter Sunday). The lesson for Palm/Passion Sunday (#3-28) has been extended to cover selections of the Bible passages from Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



Our God, Revealed in the Story (Annual Theme)

The story of the Bible reveals a God of promise, relationship, mercy, and new life. God is revealed in the rocky relationship with God's covenant people. The prophets look back to the history of Israel's relationship with their Creator, and forward toward the coming of the promised Messiah. God is revealed fully in Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus shows us a loving God in his teachings, healings, and relationships with outcasts. Jesus' commitment to love leads him to Jerusalem and the cross. Finally, God is revealed in a church that was born in the good news first proclaimed by faithful women. We all have news to tell, and this story of the early church shows us that we can spread the gospel in all circumstances, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Promises Made, Promises Broken

Pentecost: Sept. 13 to Oct. 25, 2020

Throughout the history of God's people, God has made covenants (agreements with promises on both sides) with God's beloved people. But a tragic pattern emerged. God and the people made promises to each other, and then the people failed to live God's way. God made promises to Adam and Eve at creation, but they ate the forbidden fruit. God delivered the people of Israel from slavery and gave them the Torah, but they worshipped a golden calf. However, God always keeps God's promises, as God did with Abram, Joseph, Hannah, and David. Even when the people have broken their part of the covenant, God is faithful, and renews the promise again and again.

God Sightings

Pentecost: Nov. 1 to Nov. 22, 2020

In the parts of the Bible known as the Histories and the Prophets, we hear stories about the prophets that reveal God to us in many ways. The widow of Zarephath experienced God's provision through the miracle of the flour and oil lasting for as long as it was needed. Jonah ran from God, but God found him anyway. Isaiah experienced a powerful vision of God in the temple calling him to serve as a prophet. The prophet Jeremiah heard the words of God promising forgiveness for the people and a new covenant. We, too, can see glimpses of God, if we just look for them!

The Hope of the Messiah

Advent & Christmas: Nov. 29 to Dec. 25, 2020

God sent prophets to the peoples of Israel and Judah, often bringing words of warning and condemnation for idolatry and injustice, calling the people to get back on the right path. However, in times of suffering, the prophets gave God's people words of hope—that God would rescue them from their troubles. God delivered Daniel from the lions' den. Joel spoke of a hope that comes out of repentance, and Isaiah prophesied of the hope that comes through the Messiah—the one who will deliver humanity from suffering and oppression. Finally, the Messiah's birth is foretold to his mother by an angel and confirmed by her cousin Elizabeth.

Revelation of the Son of Man

Christmas & Epiphany: Dec. 27, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021

The Messiah has arrived at last. The season of Epiphany celebrates how God is revealed through Jesus. Simeon and Anna proclaim baby Jesus as the promised savior. As a boy, Jesus returned to the temple, revealing his deep understanding of God to the teachers. Jesus was

named God's beloved son at his baptism, the one whom John the Baptist had announced. Jesus himself reveals his own mission in Nazareth, declaring that he is the fulfillment of prophecy. He then sets about the work of the kingdom as he calls his disciples and challenges the religious leaders.

Jesus Heals

Epiphany: Feb. 7 to Feb. 14, 2021

After Jesus reveals that he is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy, he demonstrates that fulfillment by healing the sick and releasing those oppressed by sin and by demons. He explains his purpose to John's followers and—in the ultimate revelation—is transfigured in front of his disciples on the mountaintop. God shines through Jesus in more ways than one.

Journey to the Cross

Lent & Holy Week: Feb. 17 to Apr. 2, 2021

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a clear destination in mind. Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem and, in doing so, sets his course toward his own suffering and death. He pauses only to remind his followers to set their faces in the right direction—to repent, serve others, and follow him, even to death. As we journey toward Holy Week, we are reminded again and again to turn around and face Jerusalem.

Birth of the Church

Easter & Pentecost: Apr. 4 to May 23, 2021

Although many people think of Pentecost as “the birthday of the church,” the church was born at the empty tomb. There the women decided to quell their terror and take the angel's words back to the waiting disciples. The women proclaimed the resurrection to the other disciples, and with that proclamation, those assembled started to become the church of the risen Christ. The disciples at Emmaus saw Jesus revealed in the breaking of the bread, just as Jesus is revealed when we break bread together at the altar or a table. The early church encountered differences of opinion and style but, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, has continued to grow and share the story of the resurrection.