



LIVING THE WORD

Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4

Narrative Lectionary Readings

2021-2022

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title
God Provides Blessings	9/12/2021	Pentecost 16	#4-1	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	God's Good Creation
	9/19/2021	Pentecost 17	#4-2	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Abraham and Isaac
	9/26/2021	Pentecost 18	#4-3	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Jacob Steals a Blessing
	10/3/2021	Pentecost 19	#4-4	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17	The Burning Bush
	10/10/2021	Pentecost 20	#4-5	Exodus 16:1-18	Manna and Quail
Called by God	10/17/2021	Pentecost 21	#4-6	1 Samuel 3:1-21	God Calls Samuel
	10/24/2021	Pentecost 22	#4-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14	God Chooses David
	10/31/2021	Pentecost 23	#4-8	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	Solomon's Temple
	11/7/2021	All Saints' Sunday	#4-9	1 Kings 19:1-18	God Visits Elijah
Promises of Hope	11/14/2021	Pentecost 25	#4-10	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24	Let Justice Roll Down
	11/21/2021	Christ the King	#4-11	Isaiah 9:1-7	A Light in the Darkness
God's Presence Brings Life	11/28/2021	Advent 1	#4-12	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14	Hope for the Future
	12/5/2021	Advent 2	#4-13	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of the Dry Bones
	12/12/2021	Advent 3	#4-14	Isaiah 55:1-13	Seek the Lord
	12/19/2021	Advent 4	#4-15	John 1:1-18	The Word Became Flesh
	12/25/2021	Christmas	#4-C1	Luke 2:1-20	The Savior Is Born
Encountering the Messiah	12/26/2021	Christmas 1	#4-C2	John 1:19-34	The Lamb of God
	1/2/2022	Christmas 2	#4-16	John 1:35-51	Come and See
	1/9/2022	Epiphany 1	#4-17	John 2:1-11	The Wedding at Cana
	1/16/2022	Epiphany 2	#4-18	John 2:13-25	Cleansing the Temple
Invitation to Abundant Life	1/23/2022	Epiphany 3	#4-19	John 3:1-21	Nicodemus Visits Jesus
	1/30/2022	Epiphany 4	#4-20	John 4:1-42	The Woman at the Well
	2/6/2022	Epiphany 5	#4-21	John 4:46-54 [5:1-18]	Healing Miracles
	2/13/2022	Epiphany 6	#4-22	John 6:35-59	The Bread of Life
	2/20/2022	Epiphany 7	#4-23	John 7:37-52	Life-giving Water
	2/27/2022	Transfiguration	#4-24	John 9:1-41	Spiritual Blindness
Following Jesus	3/2/2022	Ash Wednesday	#4-L1	John 10:1-18	The Good Shepherd
	3/6/2022	Lent 1	#4-25	John 11:1-44	Jesus Raises Lazarus
	3/13/2022	Lent 2	#4-26	John 13:1-17	Jesus Serves
	3/20/2022	Lent 3	#4-27	John 18:12-27	Peter Denies Jesus
God's Kingdom Revealed	3/27/2022	Lent 4	#4-28	John 18:28-40	Jesus before Pilate
	4/3/2022	Lent 5	#4-29	John 19:1-16a	Jesus Is Sentenced
	4/10/2022	Palm/Passion Sunday	#4-30	John 19:16b-22 [12:12-27]	A Different Kind of King
	4/14/2022	Maundy Thursday	#4-L2	John 19:23-30	The Crucifixion
	4/15/2022	Good Friday	#4-L3	John 19:31-42	Jesus Is Buried
Good News Spreads	4/17/2022	Easter Sunday	#4-R1	John 20:1-18	Jesus Is Risen!
	4/24/2022	Easter 2	#4-31	John 20:19-31	Thomas Doubts
	5/1/2022	Easter 3	#4-32	Acts 9:1-19a	Saul's Conversion
	5/8/2022	Easter 4	#4-33	Acts 16:16-34	Paul and Silas in Prison
Living in Hope	5/15/2022	Easter 5	#4-34	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens
	5/22/2022	Easter 6	#4-35	Philippians 1:1-18a	The Church in Philippi
	5/29/2022	Easter 7	#4-36	Philippians 2:1-13	Living Like Jesus
	6/5/2022	Pentecost	#4-37	Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7	The Holy Spirit

Note: Readings with standard numbers (e.g. #4-14) are readings covered in all curriculum products. The readings with letters (e.g. #4-C1) are available only in *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship*, *Living the Word: Contexts & Connections*, and *Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home*.



Called by God, Blessed to Serve (Year 4, 2021-2022)

The stories of the Year 4 Narrative Lectionary tell of God's invitation into relationship given to all people, and the ways in which God provides gifts of grace at every turn. While Abraham seemed too old to father a nation, Moses too quiet to lead a people, and David too young to take over Israel, we see throughout the Old Testament that God repeatedly calls the unexpected to step out in faith. As the people answer God's call, God never fails to equip them for the journey. Throughout Scripture, gifts of grace are given to those answering God's call, especially at some of the most trying moments. From gifts of manna in the wilderness to the promise of new life for the struggling Israelites, God's call to discipleship is never without God's blessing and provision each step of the way. As God chooses to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, God's commitment to relationship is distinctly clear. Jesus' invitations to abundant life reveal a relentless love that desires that all people know and serve God. His teachings reveal a kingdom that opposes traditional expectations of power and importance, always calling the least expected into God's mission of redemption. As the hope of the resurrection spreads, God's grace abounds in everyday moments and throughout the significant challenges of the early church. These early churches learn to rejoice, even in trials, always trusting in God's provision. Each of us are invited into a life of discipleship by our loving Creator. God's continued presence and abounding grace allows us to answer God's call, and through those blessings, to live in hope as we serve Jesus through our neighbor.

God Provides Blessings (*Pentecost: Sept. 12 to Oct. 10, 2021*)

God created humans to be in relationship with their Creator and blessed them with all they would need. Desiring the best for us, God regularly calls us back into relationship, and invites imperfect people to be part of God's beautiful story of redemption. This relationship with God requires trust, and often challenges us to step out in this trust. Abraham, as well as Moses and the Israelites, were called to leave all they knew and trust in God's provision. Yet, when God calls, God also provides all that is needed to live faithfully as a blessing to others.

Called by God (*Pentecost: Oct. 17 to Nov. 7, 2021*)

God's call is often surprising to us, as God looks not on the outside, but at the heart. God continues to invite unlikely people to be great leaders and pillars of the faith. These imperfect leaders answer God's call, allowing God to work through them in remarkable ways, even as their faults are sometimes evident. God's presence serves as a constant source of strength and peace and equips them to serve, though challenges may abound.

Promises of Hope (*Pentecost: Nov. 14 to Nov. 21, 2021*)

As the Israelites turn away from God and forget their calling to serve as a blessing to all nations, the prophets call them back to relationship with their creator. The prophets offer promises of hope to a people lost and dejected, reminding them that God will never abandon them and promises a future filled with hope. The people may have turned from God, but God will not turn away from them. God's plan for their future, and ours, is bright and filled with hope.

God's Presence Brings Life (*Advent: Nov. 28 to Dec. 25, 2021*)

God's everlasting promise to be in relationship with the Israelites and all creation allows hope to take root in even the most hopeless circumstances. God continues to provide and be faithful, bringing life where there was once death, like dry bones being gathered back to life. As texts move into the New Testament in this Advent season, hope is ultimately embodied in human form as God will go to any length to show love, even becoming flesh and dwelling with us. God's presence is found among us in the humble form of a child in Jesus, the one who brings true life to all.

Encountering the Messiah (*Epiphany: Dec. 26, 2021 to Jan. 16, 2022*)

In the beginning of John's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is launched with his baptism by John. These stories represent a series of first encounters: Jesus' first interaction with the disciples, his first miracle, and his first conflict with the religious establishment. While these early stories in the Gospel reveal Jesus' power and his call to discipleship, they also set up questions regarding his true identity as Jesus hints—even now—that he is headed to the cross.

Invitation to Abundant Life (*Epiphany: Jan. 23 to Feb. 27, 2022*)

Jesus' ministry continues as he calls those around him into new life. Each interaction reveals more about Jesus' identity and the promises of God, as well as God's desire for all to know abundant life. From invitations to be born anew through the Spirit, to promises of living water, these encounters with Jesus leave the individuals changed and further illustrate Jesus' purpose and ministry of bringing life to all.

Following Jesus (*Lent: Mar. 2 to Mar. 20, 2022*)

Upon entering Lent, the time when we draw near to Jesus as we prepare to remember his death and resurrection, more is revealed about Jesus' call to discipleship. Jesus invites all to follow him and promises to be the good shepherd providing and caring for his flock. His disciples are to listen to his voice and serve as he serves. Jesus' great love is clear as he weeps over Lazarus' death, and his great power evident as he raises him back to life. In Peter's denial, we see that we often struggle to live up to this call to follow Jesus.

God's Kingdom Revealed (*Lent: Mar. 27 to Apr. 15, 2022*)

As we follow Jesus to the cross, Jesus' kingdom repeatedly clashes with the one of this world. God's kingdom is described as one much more powerful than the one of Pilate and the high priests. Still, Jesus remains obedient, trusting that all power comes from God and continuing his journey to the cross. As the crowd denies their faith and proclaims Caesar their only lord, Jesus is crucified with the mocking inscription of King of the Jews. Jesus dies, and is buried in the garden in a quiet ceremony, but the true power of God's kingdom is yet to be revealed.

Good News Spreads (*Easter: Apr. 17 to May 8, 2022*)

On Easter morning, Jesus calls Mary by name, and the good news of Jesus' resurrection begins to spread. As more and more see the risen Messiah, their doubt changes to belief and the story of Easter is shared, that all might believe this good news. Through the faithful service of disciples, those who are least likely, like Saul and the jailer, also come to believe in the hope of Jesus.

Living in Hope (*Easter: May 15 to Jun. 5, 2022*)

The early church continues to proclaim the gospel, inviting others into the life of discipleship. These church leaders learn to live in hope, trusting that God's grace is sufficient even in trials. They continue to rejoice in God's goodness and love in all situations as they are equipped to serve in Jesus' name. As they answer God's call to be the church, the gifts of God's grace are ever present.