

C+G
Education

RCL

LIVING THE WORD

**Cross+Generational
Education
Years B & C**



Leader's Guide

Sample Lesson

September 12, 2021

Contributors

Publisher

Gregory Rawn

Editors

Cynthia Fairman Paulson
Elaine Seekon

Writer

Kari Osmeck

Layout

Nance Keyes
J. Pace Warfield
Dawn Saxton

Graphic Designer

Amanda Wolfe

Artists

Amanda Wolfe
Rev. Tom Pairan

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Sunday, September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Year B

Peter Calls Jesus the Messiah

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading:

James 3:1-12

Key Verse:

He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”

– Mark 8:29

The Point:

Peter longs for a powerful Messiah, but Jesus came to give his life.

Liturgical Color:

Green



Activities & Supplies

Into the Word

I Say I Am

Introduce yourself.

10 min.

- Groupings Guide
- Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
- Paper
- Markers or crayons

Seasons of the Word

Pentecost

Hold a green scavenger hunt.

15 min.

- None

Learning the Word

Who Is Jesus?

Understand our own view of Jesus.

15 min.

- Bibles
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

The Word in the World

Share the Real Jesus

Tell someone about the Jesus you know.

10 min.

- None



Beyond the Gospel

Taming Your Tongue What you say is important.	5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible• Jelly beans• Bowls• Napkins• Serving spoons• Optional: food service gloves
Additional Activities		
What Does It Mean? Discover the meaning of your name.	10 min.	Internet-connected devices
Slow Growth Play a slow game.	10 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active Sheet A• Scissors• Bowls or baskets
Growth Goals Identify faith goals for the year.	5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper• Pens or pencils
Sending		
	5 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Word @ Home take-home sheet





Cross+Generational Ministry has at its core the concept that faith is formed through meaningful relationships. When we connect with people of a different generation, we are able to learn from them and share our own experiences, no matter what age we are. We find our place in God's story best by exploring that story as community.

Effective cross+generational experiences are:

- *Experiential*
- *Interactive*
- *Engaging*
- *Story-centered*
- *Home-based*
- *Equalizing*

all of which promote an **encounter with God**. All of the activities included in this leader guide are intended to engage these principles, through intentional cross+generational interaction and active, creative activities that bring the Bible story to life in our lives.

We pass on the faith through every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God's world. When we do this in meaningful, intergenerational relationships, our faith is enriched from the diversity of the experiences we share with each other. Our communities are strengthened, and we have confidence in our sense of belonging to God and with each other.



Background for Leaders

In Mark's Gospel, we hear about a Jesus who is on the move. As we come back together for another school year, we join the disciples as they learn about this Jesus.

Gospel Summary: Mark 8:27-38

Peter Calls Jesus the Messiah

As Jesus and his disciples enter the city of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus pauses to check in with them. "Who do people say that I am? Who do YOU say that I am?" Peter's claim of Jesus as Messiah is a claim to royalty, but clearly this is not the Jesus that the disciples have experienced up to this point. Jesus goes on to tell them about his upcoming suffering and death, but Peter tried to change the narrative, denying the inevitable. Peter wants a savior who is strong and powerful, but that is not what Jesus is describing. Further, Jesus calls us to take up our cross to follow him. We know the end of this story; but at this point, the disciples only see a bleak and frightening road ahead.

First Reading Summary: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Isaiah recognizes his role in teaching others about God. In the midst of difficulties, Isaiah knows that God will be with him and sustain him. By listening to the Word of God, the prophet will be protected.

Second Reading Summary: James 3:1-12

James warns about the extra role and responsibilities of those who teach others. Our words are a powerful tool which can be used to edify others or to lead them astray.

The Point:

Peter longs for a powerful Messiah, but Jesus came to give his life. Jesus speaks of losing his life for our sake, not of great victories and won battles won. Furthermore, he calls us to take up our own cross as well. The Christian faith is not one of glory and strength, but one of servanthood and sacrifice. Because we follow Jesus' example, we do not seek to rule over others but to serve them.

Festivals & Seasons: Green

The time between Pentecost Sunday and the beginning of Advent is the longest season of the church year. In most Protestant churches, this is called the season after Pentecost and the Sundays are designated by the number of Sundays after Pentecost Sunday. The liturgical color is green and is often connected with the theme of growth. Our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church call this season Ordinary Time—not "ordinary" as in "not special," but related to the ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). However, this "season"—along with its partner between Epiphany Sunday and Ash Wednesday—is mostly noted in that it is not one of the great seasons (Christmas, Easter) or the preparation times for those (Advent, Lent). It is indeed "normal."

Prayer of Preparation:

Jesus, it is hard to live like you. Some days we would like to take the more attractive path; the path to glory and wealth. But you call us to take a path of self-sacrifice. Help us to follow in the way that you lead. Amen.

Lesson Plan

Into the Word

I Say I Am

10 min.

Introduce yourself.

Supplies:

- Groupings Guide
- Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
- Paper
- Markers or crayons

Preparation:

1. Determine how you would like to group participants at their tables (in a cross+generational grouping), using the Groupings Guide.
2. Prepare the materials indicated in the Guide.

Instructions:

1. Welcome the class and instruct them to group themselves cross+generationally according to the method you have selected from the Groupings Guide.
2. **If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself, and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family.**
3. **As we begin a new year together, we start by talking about identity. Who is Jesus? Who did the disciples say that he was? Who did God say that Jesus was? Who did Jesus say that he was?**



4. We are going to take a moment to get to know the identity of the people in your small group, too. Use the paper to write down symbols that are important to who you are as a person. What do you think of when you think about your own identity? What do you like to do, what is a part of your life that is important, how does your family see you? Take a moment to draw some symbols, include your name, and then share with those at your table.



Seasons of the Word

Pentecost

15 min.

Hold a green scavenger hunt.

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

1. **We are in the season of Pentecost. Again. Still.** The Pentecost season is the longest season in the church year; therefore, we started at Pentecost last spring and we continue to be in the Pentecost season in the fall. We will stay in Pentecost until the season of Advent begins, which is the month four weeks before Christmas. So, Pentecost is a *long* season.
2. **The color for Pentecost is green. I want you to go and find something that is green and bring it back to your group. You can also use something that you brought with you.**
3. Give participants time to find something. If this is impractical in your setting, have them simply think of green things.
4. **Let's hear what you found. Who would like to share with the large group their green thing?** Invite those who are willing to share. **Does your green thing grow? Talk about it in your small group.**
5. **Pentecost is all about growth, especially growing closer in our relationship with Jesus. In what ways can your green item be a symbol of growth in Christ?**
6. **In today's lessons, the disciples—especially Peter—are taught an important lesson that helps them grow in their understanding of Jesus.**



Learning the Word

Who Is Jesus?

15 min.

Understand our own view of Jesus.

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Preparation:

1. Post mural paper on a wall at a height that all participants can reach. If this is not an option in your space, each small group can have their own section of paper at their table.

Instructions:

1. **We will begin by listening to the story. For the next few weeks, we will hear the story from the Gospel of Mark. This is the second book in the New Testament. Mark is quick and precise with his language. He gets right to the point and does not use a lot of flowery or descriptive language.**
2. **Let's all turn to Mark 8:27-38. Invite one person from your group to read this passage out loud to the rest of your group. Make sure to read it out loud so that the youngest members are included.**
3. When everyone is finished, ask:
 - a. **What are Jesus and his disciples doing?** [*Traveling to Caesarea Philippi.*]
 - b. **What is the first question that Jesus asks the disciples?** [*Who do people say that I am?*]
 - c. **If someone asked you that today—"Who do people say that Jesus is?"—how would you answer them? Share your thoughts with your group.**



- d. What is the next question that Jesus asks the disciples? [*Who do you say that I am?*]
 - e. If someone asked you that today—“Who do you say that Jesus is?”—how would you answer them? Share your thoughts with your group.
4. When you talked about how people view Jesus, what words did you use? How do people think about Jesus today? Write some of those words on the mural paper.
 5. When people are finished, discuss what they wrote as a large group.
 6. Now, how does this view of Jesus compare with what you see and experience? Write or draw your description of Jesus. You might choose to draw over the words that other people use.
 7. When people are finished, discuss what they wrote as a large group.
 8. How are these two perceptions of Jesus the same? How are they different? Why do you think that is? Share your thoughts with your small group.
 9. Peter shares his thoughts about how he perceives Jesus: he thinks of him as a Messiah. A Messiah was thought to be a mighty king, a strong warrior, a conqueror. But Jesus goes on to share about his upcoming crucifixion and death. Peter’s idea of who Jesus was is quite different from how the story actually ends.



The Word in the World

Share the Real Jesus

10 min.

Tell someone about the Jesus you know.

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

1. **Of all of the ways that you think of Jesus, what one word is your favorite description?** Allow participants to share their thoughts.
2. **How could you use that one word description to tell others about Jesus?**
3. **Now, let's take that one step further: how can you actually demonstrate that to someone else? Let's say you like to think of Jesus as "love." How can you show Jesus' love to someone else? Or if you like to think of Jesus as a healer, what can you do to help someone heal? Maybe you like to think of Jesus as friend; how can you be a friend to someone this week?**
4. **Take a moment to make a plan to show your favorite aspect of Jesus to someone else this week. Share those ideas in your small group.**
5. **Close with prayer: Jesus, you are so many things to so many people: Teacher, Messiah, Lord, Friend, Creator, Comforter. Help us to reach out to others in your name. Amen.**



Beyond the Gospel

Taming Your Tongue

5 min.

What you say is important.

Supplies:

- Bible
- Jelly beans
- Bowls
- Napkins
- Serving spoons
- Optional: food service gloves

Preparation:

1. Pour some jelly beans into bowls for each table.
2. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Instructions:

1. **We are going to hear a word of instruction from James. As I read this passage, you can eat some of the jelly beans. Be sure to pay special attention to which colors are which flavors.**
2. Read the text from James 3:1-12.
3. **How many of you have read the Harry Potter books or seen the movies? What can you tell me about the “every flavor” jelly beans in those books? *[They are all different flavors, and some are disgusting!]***



4. You trusted that the jelly beans that I put out for you would not have any gross flavors, right? You trusted that what you were putting in your mouth was going to be pleasant. In our text from James, we learn that the things that come out of our mouths need to be pleasant, too. If we fill our hearts and our minds with pleasant things, pleasant and kind words will come out of our mouth. But what happens if we do the opposite? If we fill our hearts and our minds with mean or hurtful things, that is what comes out of our mouths. It is important to make sure that we fill our hearts and minds with things that are kind and loving, so that the words that we use are kind and loving as well.



Additional Activities

What Does It Mean?

10 min.

Discover the meaning of your name.

Supplies:

- Internet-connected devices.

Preparation:

1. Verify that participants will have access to a reliable Internet connection.

Instructions:

1. Names and titles mean a lot and can tell other people something about us. Do you know what your name means or where it comes from?
2. Look your name up on a baby name finder website and see if you can find its meaning. Is it what you thought? Share what you discovered with the rest of your group. Allow time for groups to share.
3. What does that meaning say about who you are? Do you feel like it is an accurate definition? Why or why not?
4. How can your actions be more reflective your name's meaning? Or, if you do not like the meaning of your name, what do you wish your name meant that would be a more accurate reflection of who you are as a person? Share with your group. Allow time for groups to share.



Additional Activities

Slow Growth

10 min.

Play a slow game.

Supplies:

- Activity Sheet A
- Scissors
- Bowls or baskets

Preparation:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet A for each small group.
2. Cut the slips apart and put a set for each group into a bowl or basket. Distribute one set to each group.

Instructions:

1. **Pentecost is a time of growth. It is especially a time for us to grow in our faith and knowledge about Jesus.**
2. **How quickly do plants grow? How about children? Sometimes things seem to grow very slowly. Let's play a game where we see how slowly we can do something.**
3. Play a game of charades in each small group. Draw a suggestion from the bowl or basket and act out that activity. The challenge is to act it out in slow motion. Take turns so each person gets to act out one activity.



Additional Activities

Growth Goals

5 min.

Identify faith goals for the year.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

Instructions:

1. We have been talking about Pentecost as a season of growth, and especially growth in our faith. What are some ways that you can grow in your faith this year? Talk together as a small group to brainstorm ideas. You might want to consider participating in classes like this one, reading your Bible, or praying with friends or family members.
2. After you have shared some ideas, choose one idea that works for you and write it down on a piece of paper. Bring this home and keep it somewhere to help you remember to continue to strive toward this growth goal during this coming year.



Sending

Echo this slow-motion prayer together:

Dear Jesus, (echo)
Help us (echo)
To know (echo)
That growth (echo)
Can be slow (echo)
But to keep trying. (echo)
Amen. (echo)

Remember to send “The Word @ Home” take-home sheet with participants before dismissing them.



Slow Growth

Play a slow game.

Play baseball.	Feed a pet.
Take a shower.	Read a book.
Use a computer.	Make your bed.
Wash dishes.	Chop vegetables.
Hug your family.	Ice skate.
Swim.	



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 16

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

The Point

Peter longs for a powerful Messiah, but Jesus came to give his life.

Key Verse

“He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”
– Mark 8:29

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Peter Calls Jesus the Messiah

As Jesus and his disciples enter Caesarea Philippi, Jesus pauses for to check in with them. “Who do people say that I am? Who do YOU say that I am?” Peter’s claim of Jesus as Messiah is a claim to royalty, but clearly this is not the Jesus that the disciples have experienced up to this point. Jesus goes on to tell them about his upcoming suffering and death, but Peter tries to change the narrative, denying the inevitable. Peter wants a savior who is strong and powerful, but that is not what Jesus is describing.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Isaiah recognizes his role in teaching others about God. In the midst of difficulties, Isaiah knows that God will be with him and sustain him. By listening to the Word of God, the prophet will be protected.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

James warns about the extra role and responsibilities of those who teach others. Our words are a powerful tool which can be used to edify others or to lead them astray.

Seasons & Festivals

The season of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year, and the season after Pentecost and the Sundays are designated by the number after Pentecost Sunday. The liturgical color is green and is connected with the theme of growth. Our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church call this season Ordinary Time—not “ordinary” as in “not special,” but related to the ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.).

Discussion Starters

- What is your favorite name for Jesus?
- When you think of Jesus, what trait comes to mind?
- What can you do this week to show others that trait?

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, help us to know you and recognize you and to share who you are with others. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Mark 8:27-38 Peter calls Jesus the Messiah.
Share one word that you would use to describe Jesus.

Monday

Read Proverbs 22:1-21 Words of wisdom from Solomon.
Share one verse in this section that you find most interesting. Why does it stand out to you?

Tuesday

Read Colossians 3:1-11 Set your mind on things above.
Pray together to "put to death" one thing that comes between you and God.

Wednesday

Read John 7:25-36 Jesus confuses the crowd.
If you had seen Jesus speaking, what do you think you would have thought of him?

Thursday

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Paul proclaims Christ crucified.
Think of one way that you can base your faith on God's power instead of on what humans say.

Friday

Read Romans 11:25-32 Israel will be saved.
What do you remember about the history of the Israelites? Reread parts of their story in Exodus.

Saturday

Read Matthew 23:29-39 Woe to the hypocrites.
Name one person of faith that you have listened to who has had a positive affect on your faith life.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Jesus calls you to be like him. Amen.