



LIVING THE WORD

Cross+Gen Worship

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4



Dear Cross+Generational Worship Leader,

Thank you for leading your congregation in a cross+generational faith formation experience this year! Whether you have been a part of cross+generational faith formation for years or if this is your first time, we hope our *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship (Narrative Lectionary, Year 4)* can be a helpful tool for your group to dig deeper into God's Story in Scripture and to grow closer to God and each other during worship.

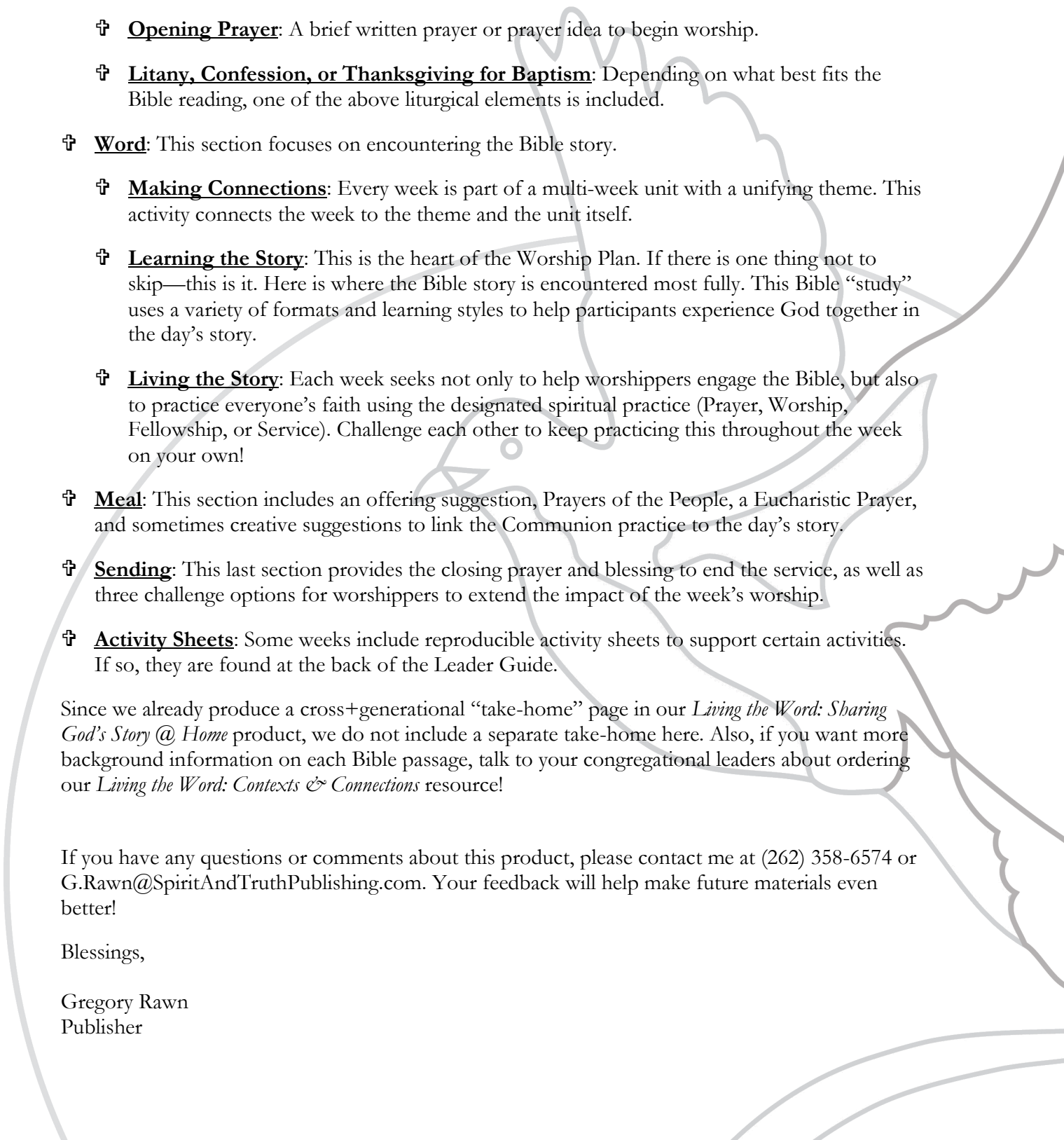
Just as the details of worship differ from congregation to congregation, cross+generational worship takes a variety of different forms. We know that each worshipping community has its own unique personality and that your worship time together will be different based on the needs of your congregation. We have designed our Worship Leader Guides to be resources and tools that will help you plan a worship service that will allow worshippers to experience God's Story together, engage in faith practices, and grow together in discipleship.

✝ **Themes & Points** - *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship (Year 4)* has an annual theme as well as multi-week thematic units to help tie the lessons together. Each lesson, is focused on a "The Point," the main idea of the lesson. Please note that if your congregation is using *Living the Word* products for other age groups, the themes, the Points, and the daily Bible readings are common among all of our products each week.

So, what's included in each Leader Guide?

Each Leader Guide follows the same basic format. Please feel free to add specific portions to your standard worship service, use the Worship Plan as your liturgy (be sure to add music in where it fits), or anywhere in between! Below describes the different worship elements.

- ✝ **Overview**: The first page of the Leader Guide give basic information about the lesson.
- ✝ **Worship @ a Glance**: This is the table of contents for the worship elements. Like an "a la carte" menu, pick and choose the elements that work best for you and your congregation!
- ✝ **Background for Leaders**: This section briefly gets you up to speed with background information on the Bible passage and spiritual practice focus.
- ✝ **Gathering**: This section includes worship elements used to gather worshippers in for a participatory worship experience.

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- ✝ **NEW Singing God's Story:** For the 2021-2022 program year, we are including our original children's music in each Worship Guide! While these simple songs have been composed with children's developmental range and understanding in mind, they are a valuable element to include everyone in worship and reinforce the unit theme.
 - ✝ **Welcoming Time:** This is an interactive time to focus worshippers and begin to introduce the day's Bible reading.
 - ✝ **Opening Prayer:** A brief written prayer or prayer idea to begin worship.
 - ✝ **Litany, Confession, or Thanksgiving for Baptism:** Depending on what best fits the Bible reading, one of the above liturgical elements is included.
 - ✝ **Word:** This section focuses on encountering the Bible story.
 - ✝ **Making Connections:** Every week is part of a multi-week unit with a unifying theme. This activity connects the week to the theme and the unit itself.
 - ✝ **Learning the Story:** This is the heart of the Worship Plan. If there is one thing not to skip—this is it. Here is where the Bible story is encountered most fully. This Bible “study” uses a variety of formats and learning styles to help participants experience God together in the day's story.
 - ✝ **Living the Story:** Each week seeks not only to help worshippers engage the Bible, but also to practice everyone's faith using the designated spiritual practice (Prayer, Worship, Fellowship, or Service). Challenge each other to keep practicing this throughout the week on your own!
 - ✝ **Meal:** This section includes an offering suggestion, Prayers of the People, a Eucharistic Prayer, and sometimes creative suggestions to link the Communion practice to the day's story.
 - ✝ **Sending:** This last section provides the closing prayer and blessing to end the service, as well as three challenge options for worshippers to extend the impact of the week's worship.
 - ✝ **Activity Sheets:** Some weeks include reproducible activity sheets to support certain activities. If so, they are found at the back of the Leader Guide.

Since we already produce a cross+generational “take-home” page in our *Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home* product, we do not include a separate take-home here. Also, if you want more background information on each Bible passage, talk to your congregational leaders about ordering our *Living the Word: Contexts & Connections* resource!

If you have any questions or comments about this product, please contact me at (262) 358-6574 or G.Rawn@SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com. Your feedback will help make future materials even better!

Blessings,

Gregory Rawn
Publisher