Spirit & Truth
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LIVING THE WORD

Cross+Gen Education

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4

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Dear Cross+Generational Education 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 Education (Narrative Lectionary, Year 4)* will 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.

Cross+generational education ministry takes a variety of different forms. We know that each group has its own unique personality and that your time together will be different based on the needs of your participants. We have designed our Leader Guides to be resources and tools that will help your group richly experience God's story together, engage in faith practices, and grow together in discipleship.

- **Themes & Points:** *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Education (Narrative Lectionary, Year 4)* has an annual theme as well as multi-week thematic units to help tie the lessons together. Each lesson, is focused on "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 Point, and the daily Bible readings are common among all of our products each week.

- **Quantity:** We have designed these lesson plans to include more material than most leaders can fit within the time allotted each week. We have done this purposefully so that you as the leader can pick and choose which activities you would like to focus on for a particular lesson. Please don't stress about getting to every activity! As you get to know your group, you might find that one type of activity really gets your participants engaged, or another type makes them lose focus. There are different learning styles, different teachings styles, and different perspectives on what should be taught. We have something for everybody!

- **Activities:** As mentioned above, feel free to choose whatever activities will fit your class each week. If you would like some guidance, we recommend the following:

    - Focus on the "Learning the Story" and the "Living the Story" activities as the core of the curriculum.
    - If you have time, check out the "Activities a la Carte" page to select more! You can use the same structure every week, or change it up; it's up to you!

- **Scripts**- Most of the activities in this curriculum include "talking scripts" of what you as the leader are "supposed" to say. Please feel free to use these scripts, change them in some way, or throw them out and do it your own way! Don't feel like you need to use them. They are only there to help you if you want them!

- **Extended Lessons**- You may notice that there are two Sunday in the program year that we do not provide a regular lesson for, the Sunday after Christmas and the Sunday of Easter. We do this because many congregations do not have faith formation times those days or weeks. However, since we do not want to miss the Bible readings for those days, and since some congregations do have faith formation time then, we have created Extended Lessons for the following Sundays. Therefore, the second Sunday of Christmas and the second Sunday of Easter have lessons that cover both the missed stories and that Sunday's story, and they have been extended to have enough teaching material to cover two classes for those who want to use them both weeks.

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So, what's included in each lesson?

Each lesson follows the same basic format. The different lesson components are described below. In addition, you will find a "Groupings Guide" along with the Leader Guides to help you divide your large group into intergenerational smaller groups, when needed.

- **Overview**: The first page of the Leader Guide give basic information about the lesson.
- **Activities a la Carte**: This is the table of contents for the lesson activities. Like an "a la carte" menu, pick and choose the elements that work best for you and your group!
- **Background for Leaders**: This section briefly gets you up to speed with background information on the Bible passage, The Point, the Bible Nuts & Bolts topic, and the spiritual practice focus.
- **Into the Story**: This is a brief activity to help participants transition from walking into the room to being ready to dig into the Bible story. It's what is known in educational terms as a "set" or quick introduction that will help participants move into the lesson.
- **Bible Nuts & Bolts**: Each lesson has an activity that helps participants learn about the structure, themes, tools, or topics related to getting to know the Bible, with different subjects each week!
- **Making Connections**: Every lesson is part of a multi-week unit with a unifying theme. This activity connects the lesson to the theme and the unit itself.
- **Learning the Story (Core Activity)**: 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. This is the heart of the guide. If there is one thing not to skip—this is it.
- **Living the Story (Core Activity)**: Each lesson seeks not only to help your group 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!
- **Additional Activities**: Just like the name says, this section gives two more activities related to the lesson Point and offer additional support for different learning styles.
- **Sending the Story**: This last section gives you a chance to review the lesson together and end with a prayer.
- **Activity Sheets**: Many lessons 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