



LIVING THE WORD

Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1

Narrative Lectionary 2022-2023 Readings

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title
God's Promises Bring Hope	9/11/2022	Pentecost 14	#1-1	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17	Noah and the Ark
	9/18/2022	Pentecost 15	#1-2	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abram
	9/25/2022	Pentecost 16	#1-3	Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph's Hope
	10/2/2022	Pentecost 17	#1-4	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29	Parting of the Red Sea
	10/9/2022	Pentecost 18	#1-5	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Living Faithfully in God's Promise	10/16/2022	Pentecost 19	#1-6	Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]	Joshua Serves God
	10/23/2022	Pentecost 20	#1-7	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9	Nathan and King David
	10/30/2022	Pentecost 21	#1-8	1 Kings 3:4-28	Solomon's Wisdom
	11/6/2022	All Saints' Sunday	#1-9	2 Kings 5:1-15a	Elisha Heals Naaman
God's Plan for Peace	11/13/2022	Pentecost 23	#1-10	Micah [1:3-5] 5:2-5a; 6:6-8	Mercy, Justice, and Peace
	11/20/2022	Christ the King	#1-11	Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4	God's Plan for Peace
Faith in God's Promises	11/27/2022	Advent 1	#1-12	Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4, 3:[3b-6], 17-19	Waiting and Watching
	12/4/2022	Advent 2	#1-13	Esther 4:1-17	Esther Leads
	12/11/2022	Advent 3	#1-14	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Savior Is Coming
	12/18/2022	Advent 4	#1-15	Matthew 1:18-25	Joseph Trusts God
God's Promise of Jesus	12/25/2022	Christmas Day	#1-C1	Luke 2:1-20	The Birth of Jesus
	1/1/2023	Christmas 1	#1-C2	Matthew 1:1-17	God's Promise Fulfilled
	1/8/2023	Epiphany/Baptism	#1-16	Matthew 3:1-17	Jesus and John the Baptist
	1/15/2023	Epiphany 2	#1-17	Matthew 4:1-17	Jesus Is Tempted
Learning to Follow	1/22/2023	Epiphany 3	#1-18	Matthew 5:1-20	Sermon on the Mount
	1/29/2023	Epiphany 4	#1-19	Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]	The Lord's Prayer
	2/5/2023	Epiphany 5	#1-20	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29	Built on the Rock
God's Power	2/12/2023	Epiphany 6	#1-21	Matthew 13:24-43	Faith Like a Mustard Seed
	2/19/2023	Transfiguration	#1-22	Matthew 16:24-17:8	The Transfiguration
The Ways of the Kingdom	2/22/2023	Ash Wednesday	#1-L1	Matthew 18:1-9	Greatest in the Kingdom
	2/26/2023	Lent 1	#1-23	Matthew 18:15-35	The Unforgiving Servant
	3/5/2023	Lent 2	#1-24	Matthew 20:1-16	Laborers in the Vineyard
	3/12/2023	Lent 3	#1-25	Matthew 22:1-14	The Wedding Banquet
	3/19/2023	Lent 4	#1-26	Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30]	The Parable of the Talents
	3/26/2023	Lent 5	#1-27	Matthew 25:31-46	When Did We See You?
God's Greatest Promise	4/2/2023	Palm/Passion Sunday	#1-28	Matthew 21:1-17	Triumphal Entry
	4/6/2023	Maundy Thursday	#1-L2	Matthew 26:17-30	The Last Supper
	4/7/2023	Good Friday	#1-L3	Matthew 27:27-61	The Crucifixion
	4/9/2023	Easter Sunday	#1-R1	Matthew 28:1-10	The Empty Tomb
	4/16/2023	Easter 2	#1-29	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission
Called to Share	4/23/2023	Easter 3	#1-30	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48	Peter's Vision
	4/30/2023	Easter 4	#1-31	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18	Paul and Barnabas
	5/7/2023	Easter 5	#1-32	Romans 1:1-17	Called to Be Saints
Gifts of God's Grace	5/14/2023	Easter 6	#1-33	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11	Peace and Hope
	5/21/2023	Easter 7	#1-34	Romans 6:1-14	Freedom from Sin
	5/28/2023	Pentecost	#1-35	Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-39	The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Note: Readings with standard numbers (e.g. #1-14) are readings covered in all curriculum products. The readings with letters (e.g. #1-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*.



Guided by God's Promises (Year 1, 2022-2023)

God makes promises to God's people and to all creation and is faithful in keeping those promises. In the first story in this year's lectionary, God promises not to destroy the earth by flood ever again. Continuing with the covenant with the Israelites, the promise of Jesus, and Paul's words that nothing can separate us from God, the narrative of Scripture follows God's promises and God's faithfulness to them. God keeps promises, even though we often struggle to respond faithfully. It is these promises that should guide our own lives and decisions as we trust fully in God. Faith in the promises of God give us the courage to work and speak for justice, to live in hope no matter the circumstances, and to share the good news of Jesus with all people.

God's Promises Bring Hope (Pentecost: Sept. 11 to Oct. 9, 2022)

God's promises bring hope for the future. After the flood, God promises God's loving relationship with all people. God promises Abram a future of descendants through which all the world will be blessed. God's presence brings Joseph hope even as he faces trials. Rescuing the Israelites, God promises to be their God, a central theme in the Old Testament. The gift of this covenant and the Ten Commandments provides the Israelites with guidelines on how to love God and love others in ways that bring life and hope to all.

Living Faithfully in God's Promise (Pentecost: Oct. 16 to Nov. 6, 2022)

Joshua and Solomon remember God's covenant and seek to serve God wisely. Living faithfully and trusting God creates opportunities to share God's power with others, as Elisha did in healing Naaman. Yet it can be a struggle to live in the ways God desires. David strays from God, making decisions that bring pain instead of life. Still, God is always faithful and offers forgiveness and love.

God's Plan for Peace (Pentecost: Nov. 13 to Nov. 20, 2022)

As we seek to live faithfully, God desires lives of justice and kindness. Though God's people have struggled, God has a plan for peace. In Micah, God promises more hope; a shepherd who will guide God's people and bring peace. As Hezekiah and Isaiah continue to trust in God's promises despite great opposition, they are reminded of God's future, a time when weapons will become farm equipment and all will know God's peace.

Faith in God's Promises (Advent: Nov. 27 to Dec. 18, 2022)

It can be difficult to trust in God's timing, especially when the wait is long, or a solution impossible. God does not forget our struggles, but instead renews the promises. God promises Habakkuk that redemption will come, though it may not be immediate. Esther is presented with an opportunity to trust God, and she saves her people. Perhaps, most importantly, God promises a savior. As the details of Jesus' birth unfold, God guides Joseph as he struggles to accept a plan that will reveal God's love to all people in Jesus. By trusting in God's promises and God's timing, we have opportunities to see God's faithfulness.

God's Promise of Jesus

(Christmas & Epiphany: Dec. 25, 2022 to Jan. 15, 2023)

God's promises are revealed through Jesus' birth. The shepherds discover that the promise of a savior is meant for everyone. In Jesus, God's promise to Abram comes true and the world is blessed through his descendent. John reminds people of the promise of Jesus, preparing the way, as Jesus' identity becomes clear in baptism.

Learning to Follow (Epiphany: Jan. 29 to Feb. 12, 2023)

Jesus instructs those listening to live in ways that glorify God and build up the kingdom. In the Sermon on the Mount, followers hear whom they are called to be as disciples of Jesus. Jesus' lessons on prayer teach us how to build our lives on the rock, guided by God's promises. Through Jesus' teaching, we learn what matters most to God, and how we are called to respond as disciples.

God's Power (Epiphany: Feb. 12, Transfiguration Sunday: Feb. 19, 2023)

As disciples, we remember that it is not up to us to do everything, but instead it is God's power at work in us that allows us to accomplish great things. Jesus teaches that things that seem small, like a mustard seed, can with God's power, become something great. In a moment of dazzling glory at the transfiguration, God reminds us to listen to Jesus and to be guided by his life and teachings.

The Ways of the Kingdom (Lent: Feb. 22 to Mar. 26, 2023)

Jesus teaches that in God's kingdom, things are different than we might expect. Sometimes, it even seems as though it is upside down when we hear that the last will be first and the first will be last, and the greatest in the kingdom are ones who serve others. In God's kingdom, mercy trumps fairness, and grace abounds. We are called to be extravagantly generous and relentlessly forgiving. Entrusted with gifts and grace, we learn to live out these kingdom ways, sharing God's love with others and using all that we have to bring glory to God.

God's Greatest Promise (Holy Week & Easter: Apr. 2 to Apr. 16, 2023)

Throughout Scripture, God has made and kept promises, but God's greatest promise was to send a savior. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem as a king on a donkey to the sound of great praise, an act that makes it even more clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. As he cleanses the temple and clashes with the religious leaders, we see he is a very different kind of king. At his trial, the title of king is meant to mock him. Facing death, Jesus takes time to eat with his disciples, giving them the gift of communion and preparing them for what is to come. Still, it is hard for everyone to believe that God's plan was for Jesus to be crucified. All creation reacts to the death of the Son of God, as the earth shakes and the rocks split apart. Yet even after Jesus' death, God's promise to rescue still stands. As the disciples see the risen Christ, they are invited to let go of their fear and rejoice as they share in the good news that nothing can disrupt God's promise for salvation, not even Jesus dying on the cross.

Called to Share (Easter: Apr. 23 to May 7, 2023)

As the disciples begin to make sense of their life and calling after Jesus' resurrection, they discover that the gospel message is much larger than any had imagined. Peter learns that this good news is meant for everyone as he encounters a centurion shortly after a surprising vision. Paul and Barnabas are set apart for a specific mission to invite others, especially the Gentiles, to know God. As they travel, they remind those they write to and visit that all belong to Jesus. Paul encourages the believers to be unashamed of the gospel message, as they work together in partnership to share the good news.

Gifts of God's Grace (Easter: May 14 to May 28, 2023)

As we live in faith, believing the good news of Jesus' resurrection, we continue to receive gifts of God's grace, God's unconditional love. Even in facing struggles, we have peace and hope from knowing Jesus. Because of his death and resurrection, sin no longer rules in our lives, but instead, grace abounds. We celebrate that we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, who provides help and guidance. As we rejoice in this gift, we are reminded that we should live guided by God's promises, especially the promise that nothing can separate us from God's great love.