

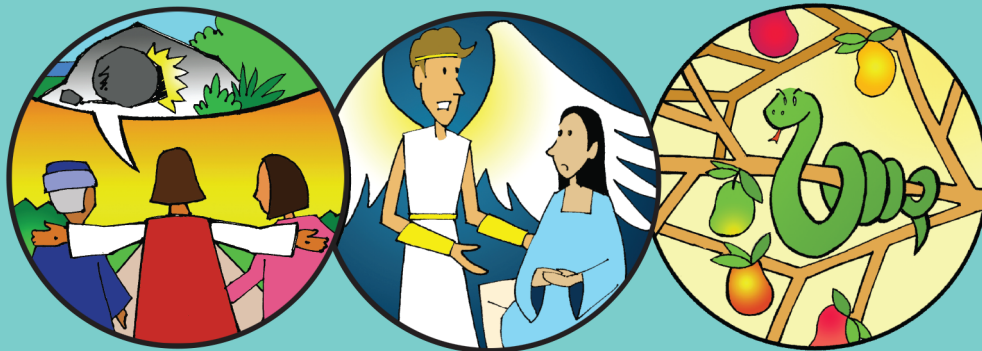
**CROSS + GEN  
WORSHIP**

**WORSHIP  
GUIDE  
#1-1**

**SAMPLE  
DISPLAY COPY**

# **LIVING THE WORD**

**Narrative Lectionary**



**Exploring God's Story Together**

**CROSS + GEN WORSHIP**

**Worship Guide**

## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Publisher**

Gregory Rawn

### **Editors**

Cynthia Fairman Paulson

Kari Osmek

Elaine Seekon

### **Writers**

Rev. Diana Booren

Stephanie Luedtke

Kari Osmek

Noell Rathbun-Cook

Dr. Jennifer Vasquez

### **Graphic Designers**

Nicholas McDougal

Benjamin Borter

### **Layout**

Nance Keyes

Gregory Rawn

### **Illustrator**

Rev. Tom Pairan

## COPYRIGHTS

Living the Word: Exploring God's Story Together, Cross+Generational Worship (Narrative Lectionary, Year 1)

Text and illustrations copyright © 2017-2022 by Spirit & Truth Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this curriculum may be used or reproduced in any other manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, contact Spirit & Truth Publishing at [www.SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com](http://www.SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com).

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is quoted from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Lesson #1-1

# NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17



### Key Verse:

[God said] “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Genesis 9:11

### The Point:

We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth.

### Making Connections:

God’s Promises Bring Hope

### Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Bible?

### Spiritual Practice:

Worship



# WORSHIP @ A GLANCE

## WORSHIP ELEMENT

## SUPPLIES

### GATHERING

**WELCOMING TIME: COVENANTS**

**5 MIN.** † None

**ANNUAL SONG: PROMISE ME, LORD**

**5 MIN.** † Bulletin insert (found at end of guide)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**2 MIN.** † None

**CONFESSION**

**5 MIN.** † Paper hearts

**UNIT SONG: WHEN THE LORD ABOVE**

**5 MIN.** † Bulletin insert (found at end of guide)

### WORD

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:  
LOOK FOR THE HELPERS**

Identify the ways that God cares for creation.

**10 MIN.** † Paper  
† Pens or pencils  
† Internet-connected device with projection

**LEARNING THE STORY:  
GUIDED REFLECTIONS**

Meditate on the text.

**15 MIN.** † Bibles

**LIVING THE STORY:  
LITANY OF TRUST**

Express our trust in God.

**10 MIN.** † Mural paper or white board  
† Markers  
† Sticky notes  
† Pens or pencils

# WORSHIP @ A GLANCE

## MEAL

OFFERING

5 MIN. † Torn hearts from Opening Litany  
† Pens or pencils

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

5 MIN. † None

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

2 MIN. † None

## SENDING

CLOSING PRAYER

2 MIN. † None

BLESSING

2 MIN. † None

AT HOME

5 MIN. † None



# LIVING THE WORD

*Exploring God's Story Together  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1*

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

## Making Connections

We begin our lectionary year with the story of Noah. Throughout this first unit, we will focus on the promises of God and the hope that they bring. We will hear these great promises through the stories of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses.

## Story Summary:

### *Noah and the Ark*

The beginning of the Noah story starts in a place of pain. God created, and it was good. Yet somewhere along the line, humankind falls so far from the original plan for creation that God decides to destroy everything and begin again. In the midst of this desolation, God finds only one man, Noah, who is blameless and who walks with God. God was heartbroken by the beliefs and actions of humanity, and determined to destroy all living things.

Yet God promises to always save God's people. God would spare Noah, a moral and exemplary human, and his family. Even in the midst of sin and heartbreak, God would not give up on humankind. God instructs Noah to build an ark and include upon it a pair of each creature and every kind of food. Noah and his family remained on the ark until the waters subsided. As the story ends, they return to land and begin a new life.

## The Point

**We can trust that God cares for creation and will never again destroy the earth.** God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again. The rainbow is a symbol of this covenant promise with humanity. When things seem desperate and frightening in this world, God promises to be with us. When the world seems torn by pain and horror, God promises to be with us. What God did once, God has promised to never do again—and we can trust God's promises.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *What Is the Bible?*

The Bible is a collection of 66 books full of stories, commands, and good news. One of the best things about the Bible is the message of love it brings to God's people. Just as a family photo album tells the story of that family's relationships and depicts the love found within that family, the Bible tells the story of God's love for God's people through stories and promises.

## Spiritual Practice: Worship

God has shown God's love to all living creatures through the gifts of creation and re-creation. We respond to that love through worship. Worship is our response to the love and gifts of God, as God promises to be with us in all circumstances.



# WORSHIP PLAN



## GATHERING

Cross+Generational Worship will look different in each different setting. Some congregations may worship in stationary seating, such as pews. Others may have a more flexible space. These suggestions are offered with these diverse settings in mind. The times indicated are just estimates, and you can take more or less time as you see fit. Feel free to adapt each element to fit your setting, remembering that the more you can engage the principles of Cross+Generational Ministry, the more vibrant and effective your worship can be.

## WELCOMING TIME: COVENANTS (5 MINUTES)

*You will need:*

- † Nothing

*During worship:*

1. **Covenants are about making promises to one another when we are in relationship with each other. Today we will hear the story of Noah and learn about the covenant, or promise, that God made to every living creature. To help set our minds on our story for today, turn to those around you to discuss the following questions:**
  - What kinds of covenant promises have you made with people in your life?
  - What inspired those promises?
  - Why are promises an important part of relationships?
  - How do promises change the nature of our relationships?

## ANNUAL SONG (5 MINUTES)

Sing the annual theme song “Promise Me, Lord.” Music formatted for bulletin inserts is found at the end of this worship guide.



## OPENING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

---

God our Creator, you are a keeper of promises. But your creation does not do as well. Help us to care for all that you have given us and to keep our promises to care for your world and all those in it. Help us to be people of our word. Amen.

## CONFESSION (5 MINUTES)

---

Give each worshipper a paper heart. As each confession is made, tear off strips or pieces of paper from your heart.

God, we confess to you those things we do that break your heart. We confess:

Our inability to keep promises.

Our lack of care for your creation.

Our selfishness and lack of concern for those around us.

God, we stray from your will, and it breaks your heart. Hear us as we confess those things that we do in our darkest moments ... (pause for silent confession)

Thank you, God, for your promise to never again destroy your people. We continue to sin, and you continue to be steadfast. Keep us mindful of your everlasting promise. Amen.

Please keep the paper heart pieces nearby. We will be using them later in our worship.

## UNIT SONG (5 MINUTES)

---

Sing the unit theme song “When the Lord Above.” Music formatted for bulletin inserts is found at the end of this worship guide.

# WORD

## MAKING CONNECTIONS: LOOK FOR THE HELPERS (10 MINUTES)

Identify the ways that God cares for creation.

*You will need:*

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Internet-connected device with projection

*Before worship:*

1. Preview and cue a short video of Mr. Fred Rogers on “[Look for the Helpers.](#)” Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

*During worship:*

1. **Sometimes the world can be a scary and bad place. The story of Noah begins when the world is a scary and bad place, too. But the story ends when God sets the rainbow in the clouds as a symbol of promise and a sign of the covenant between God and all living creatures. This story can feel difficult to read when we are living in a world where extreme events seem to be a regular occurrence. In natural or human-made disasters, we might find ourselves asking, “Where is God in this event?” Minister and children’s television star Fred Rogers said in times of crisis his grandmother would tell him to “look for the helpers.” Helpers take part in God’s covenant promise to care for creation.**
2. Watch the video together.
3. **Turn and form a group with the people near you. Beginning with the youngest worshippers, name some things going on in your community, country, or world that are a little scary. Then share stories of the people who are helpers in these situations.**
4. **End by making a list of how you can be a helper for someone else who is scared. When you are done, we will share the lists with the rest of the group.**
5. After groups are finished sharing, close with prayer: **God, sometimes the world can be a scary place. But we know that you are always with us. In the Bible we read over and over about your promise to save us, and we remember your promise every time we see a rainbow. Thank you for being stronger than the scary things. Amen.**

## LEARNING THE STORY: GUIDED REFLECTIONS (15 MINUTES)

---

Meditate on the text.

*You will need:*

† Bibles

*Before worship:*

1. Recruit three volunteers to read Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17.

*During worship:*

1. **The story of Noah and the ark is a well-known story. Many of us have heard it many times since childhood. Today we will dig deeper by listening to it in a different way.**
2. **As our first volunteer reads Genesis 6:5-22, I want you to think about this question: What bothers you about this text?**
3. Instruct the reader to begin. When the reader is finished: **Turn to those around you and discuss what you heard that bothers you in this text.**
4. **As our second volunteer reads Genesis 8:6-12, think about what this text tells you about God.** When the reader is finished, instruct worshippers to discuss their thoughts.
5. **As our final volunteer reads Genesis 9:8-17, think about what this text has to do with the way you live your life.**
6. After the reading pause to allow worshippers to gather their thoughts, then give them a few minutes to share their reflections with someone sitting near them.

## LIVING THE STORY: LITANY OF TRUST (10 MINUTES)

---

Express our trust in God.

*You will need:*

- † Mural paper or white board
- † Markers
- † Sticky notes
- † Pens or pencils

*Before worship:*

1. Draw a simple rainbow on the mural paper or white board.

*During worship:*

1. **As we begin to wrap up our learning time together, it is important that we remember God's promises in the midst of a chaotic world.** Bring the white board forward or post the mural paper where worshippers can see it. **God sent a rainbow as a sign that God would never again destroy the earth by flood. Our God is a promise-keeper, and we can trust God's word.**
2. **But sometimes it is hard for us to trust that promise. We need to be honest with ourselves and with others about that, too. Today we will take a moment to share those times when it is hard to trust the promises of God; times of challenge and loneliness, times of fear and frustration.**
3. **On your sticky note, write a time when your faith is or has been challenged. As you finish, bring your paper forward and place it on the rainbow remembering that, regardless of our fears, God sets the rainbow as a promise that God will always be with us.**

# MEAL

## OFFERING (5 MINUTES)

The offering is a great time to engage all ages. Giving is a discipline that is both important and easy to teach. Preparing and placing an offering in the plate is participatory, kinesthetic, and visual. You can order special envelopes for young worshippers or have them decorate plain envelopes according to the day's theme.

*You will need:*

- † Torn hearts from Confession
- † Pens or pencils

**Using the pieces from your torn hearts from the Confession, write a promise of how you will care for God's creation. Include it as a part of your offering today.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (5 MINUTES)

If possible, invite worshippers to form a circle around the worship space. Otherwise, connect to each other by holding hands or touching shoulders. **We are part of God's covenant community, and called to care for one another and creation. For our prayers today, turn to the people on either side of you and learn their name if you do not already know it.**

**Let's pray: God, we have talked about our fears and our concerns. We have listened to your story and heard your promise, and know that your promises are greater than our fears. Amen.**

**To close, turn to those near you and share a hope with each other that you have for your community or the world.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

---

We begin the story again. God, you come to us over and over in the story, keeping your promises. You set your bow in the clouds as a promise to Noah. You promise to make a great nation from Abram. You rescue Joseph and turn evil to good. You guide Moses as he leads your people from slavery to freedom. And you keep your promise to be with us today through this meal ...

## COMMUNION (OPTIONAL)

---

One way to reinforce the connections amongst the community, and our responsibility to each other, is by having the congregation serve communion to each other. This can be done while the congregation is at their seats. It is helpful to have a communion assistant to hold the wine while people offer the bread, and to help the bread and wine move smoothly from one row, section, or table to another.

## SENDING

---

### CLOSING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

---

Encourage worshippers to hold hands with those next to them, connecting the entire congregation.

**Sometimes, God, the world seems overwhelming. We face devastation and uncertainty, fear and loss. But we know that you are with us in these times. We know that you are a promise keeper. Help us to rest in those promises. Amen.**

## BLESSING (2 MINUTES)

---

Invite worshippers to turn to the people on either side of them, make the sign of the cross on their hand or forehead with permission, and repeat the following: **You are a part of God's covenant promise. Amen.**

## AT HOME (5 MINUTES)

---

If your congregation is using the “Sharing God’s Story @ Home” insert, remember to hand them out before they leave worship.

*This week:*

- ✝ Plant a seed as an expression of hope.
- ✝ Show care for animals by volunteering at a local animal shelter or offering to walk a neighbor’s dog.
- ✝ Look for expressions of hope in current events and share them with your family and friends.







Living the Word  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1

Annual Song  
2022-2023



Living the Word  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1

Unit 1:  
God's Promises Bring Hope

## Promise Me, Lord

J. L. Salt(er)

Prom - ise me, Lord, that you'll be there.  
 Prom - ise me, Lord, Prom - ise me,  
 Wher - ev - er I may go, I'll know I'm in your care.  
 Prom - ise me, Lord, when I look up, you're al - ways there.  
 And as I grow, I'll al - ways know  
 Prom - ise me, Lord, when day is through,  
 that you do love me so. You'll nev - er let me go.  
 I'll rest and know that I can put my trust in you.

## When the Lord Above

J. L. Salt(er)

When the Lord a - bove heard the peo - ple God loved shout, "Help! Won't you please come and  
 save us?" Then, God an - swered their call. "I will come save you all! You are  
 all my peo - ple, you know!"  
 Fine