

Compliments of:



# LIVING THE WORD

Teaching God's Story  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1



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## Planning Tool

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For Preaching, Worship, and  
Faith Formation

September 11, 2022 to May 28, 2023

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# Narrative Lectionary Readings

## Fall

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Other Festival/Observance	LrW Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title	Notes
God's Promises Bring Hope	9/11/2022	Pentecost 14	Labor Day (9/5)	#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	
God's Promises Bring Hope	10/2/2022	Pentecost 17	World Communion	#1-4	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29	Parting of the Red Sea	
	10/9/2022	Pentecost 18	Thanksgiving (CA) (10/10)	#1-5	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments	
	10/16/2022	Pentecost 19		#1-6	Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]	Joshua Serves God	
Living Faithfully in God's Promise	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	Reformation Day	#1-8	1 Kings 3:4-28	Solomon's Wisdom	
God's Plan for Peace	11/6/2022	All Saints' Sunday	Veterans Day (11/11)	#1-9	2 Kings 5:1-15a	Elisha Heals Naaman	
	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	Thanksgiving (US) (11/24)	#1-11	Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4	God's Plan for Peace	

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*.



## Winter

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Other Festival/Observance	LW Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title	Notes
Faith in God's Promises	11/27/2022	Advent 1		#1-12	Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4, 3:13b-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*	New Year's Day	#1-C2	Matthew 1:1-17	God's Promise Fulfilled	
	1/8/2023	Epiphany/Baptism	Epiphany (1/6) Baptism of the Lord	#1-16	Matthew 3:1-17	Jesus and John the Baptist	
Learning to Follow	1/15/2023	Epiphany 2		#1-17	Matthew 4:1-17	Jesus Is Tempted	
	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	
God's Power	2/5/2023	Epiphany 5		#1-20	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29	Built on the Rock	
	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 text for January 1 is included in the Living the Word lesson for January 8 for all products other than *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship, Living the Word: Contexts & Connections*, and *Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home*.  
 \*\* The text for Easter Sunday is included in the *Living the Word* lesson for April 16 for all products other than *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship, Living the Word: Contexts & Connections*, and *Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home*.



# Narrative Lectionary Readings

## Spring

Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Other Festival/Observance	LrW Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story Title	Notes
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 Sunday	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	
God's Greatest Promise	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	
	4/23/2023	Easter 3		#1-30	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48	Peter's Vision	
Called to Share	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	
	5/14/2023	Easter 6	Mother's Day	#1-33	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11	Peace and Hope	
Gifts of God's Grace	5/21/2023	Easter 7	Ascension Day (5/18)	#1-34	Romans 6:1-14	Freedom from Sin	
	5/28/2023	Pentecost	Memorial Day (5/29)	#1-35	Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-39	The Promise of the Holy Spirit	



## 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.

### Preaching Text

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

Humanity's wickedness deeply grieves the Lord, who decides to destroy the earth by allowing chaos to reign temporarily. When the flood recedes, God establishes a covenant with humanity and nature, promising that a flood will never destroy the earth again.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 8:24-27*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



### Preaching Text

Genesis 12:1-9

God initiates a blessed relationship with a man named Abram. This relationship will eventually bless all of the families of the earth, reversing alienation caused by human wickedness. Abram responds faithfully.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 28:19-20*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

**Preaching Text**

Genesis 39:1-23

Through God's providential activity, Joseph rises to prominence in the house of his master, only to have his fortunes come crashing down due to a false charge. His unexpected return to prominence is further evidence of God's steadfast love.

***Accompanying Text***

*Matthew 5:11-12*

**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

**Objective(s) for the Week**

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

**Themes for Faith Formation**

**Themes for Worship and Music**

**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

### Preaching Text

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

The Moses and the Israelites experience deliverance as the battle between the Lord and Pharaoh reaches its climax at the shores of the Sea of Reeds. The Lord creates as path through the sea for Israel while washing away Pharaoh's chariots.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 2:13-15*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

After the Israelites have been liberated from slavery the Lord makes a covenantal relationship with them. This begins with ten laws that shape the relationship first between God and the Israelites as well as their relationship as a community.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 5:17*

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

**Preaching Text**

Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]

The tribes of Israel have finally reached safety and stability after a long military campaign. Joshua takes the people to Shechem and reviews their history: from descendants of Abraham to slaves in Egypt to wandering the wilderness. Joshua called the people to renew their covenant with God.

***Accompanying Text***

*Matthew 4:8-10*

**Objective(s) for the Week**

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

**Themes for Worship and Music**

**Themes for Faith Formation**

**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

### Preaching Text

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9

David has an affair with Bathsheba. She sends word to David that she is pregnant. David arranges for Bathsheba's husband to be killed so that he can be with her. The prophet Nathan confronts David and David repents.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 21:33-41*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

**Preaching Text**

1 Kings 3:4-28

King Solomon asks God for the wisdom required to govern. God is impressed and grants it. Solomon then helps resolve a dispute between two women arguing over a child, both claiming that the child is theirs. Solomon's wisdom prevails, finding a peaceful solution to the problem.

***Accompanying Text***

*Matthew 6:9-10*

**Objective(s) for the Week**

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

**Themes for Worship and Music**

**Themes for Faith Formation**

**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

### Preaching Text

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Naaman had leprosy. He went to the king of Israel to be healed, but he was turned away. Elisha told Naaman to bathe in the Jordan River. Initially Naaman was skeptical, he bathed in the river and was healed.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 8:2-3*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



### Preaching Text

Micah [1:3-5] 5:2-5a, 6:6-8

Micah warns the people of Jerusalem that they need to repent of false worship that focuses only on ritual, and turn their attention to God's true passion for justice. The recent destruction of Samaria provides an example of what not to do and the consequences of thwarting God's wishes.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 9:13*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

The Assyrian army has besieged Jerusalem. The commander appeals to the people to rebel against their king, Hezekiah. On Isaiah's advice, Hezekiah holds firm, and the Assyrians fail to capture the city. Isaiah foretells a time when all nations will look to Jerusalem as an arbiter of peace.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 5:14*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6] 17-19

Habakkuk struggles with the presence of injustice in God's creation. The Lord responds by saying that justice will come; the righteous should live by faith. Habakkuk responds that his relationship with God will no longer be governed by circumstances.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 26:36-38*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

**Preaching Text**

Esther 4:1-17

When her people are in great peril, Esther answers the call of her uncle Mordecai, embraces her identity, and risks her life in order to save her people from destruction.

***Accompanying Text***

*Matthew 5:13-16*

**Objective(s) for the Week**

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

**Themes for Worship and Music**

**Themes for Faith Formation**

**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

### Preaching Text

Isaiah 42:1-9

God is doing a new thing by calling a servant who will bring justice, open blind eyes, and liberate prisoners. This will not happen through violence or conquest but rather through the presence of God's Spirit.

### Accompanying Text

Matthew 12:15-21

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph discovers that his intended wife is pregnant and is about to dismiss her. An angel tells him that the child is from the Holy Spirit. He will be named Jesus and will save his people from their sins.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 23:1-4*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Luke 2:1-20

The long-awaited Messiah is born in Bethlehem. Angels appear to announce the news to shepherds; the shepherds then find the newborn Jesus. The shepherds then go out and spread the good news!

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 95:6-7*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 1:1-17

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a genealogy, a family tree, connected Jesus to Abraham and King David.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 132:11-12*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



### Preaching Text

Matthew 3:1-17

John the Baptist preaches a message of repentance as people come from to be baptized by him. Soon after, Jesus comes to John and asks to be baptized. As Jesus emerges from the water, a voice from heaven states, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 2:7-8*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 4:1-17

After being baptized by John, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days, where he is tempted by the devil. After returning from the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 91:9-12*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 5:1-18

Jesus delivers the first section of a long discourse known as the Sermon on the Mount. In it, he begins his instructions to the young church on how to live in expectation of God's reign.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 1:1-3*

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]

Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by encouraging prayer that puts us in relationship with God, and offers a form that can be used as a starting place for such prayer.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 20:7*

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

The conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount offers further insights on the life of discipleship, and the promise that this life will offer us the firm foundation we need to live in the kingdom of God.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 37:16-18*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 13:24-45

Jesus tells a series of parables that surprise and challenge our concept of God's kingdom.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 84:1-7*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 16:24–17:8

At the turning point in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus is transfigured before his key disciples, and his identity and mission are reaffirmed by the voice of God from above.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 41:7-10*

### Themes for Preaching & Children’s Message

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 18:1-9

Shortly after the transfiguration, Jesus provides a long discourse about the ways of the kingdom of heaven. In the section for today's reading, Jesus instructs his followers to be like children, and he warns them against the temptations of sin.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 146:7c-10*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



### Preaching Text

Matthew 18:15-35

Jesus instructs his followers on how to resolve disputes among them, and to forgive often. He tells the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant about a servant who fails to show the same grace to his debtors as was shown to him, and the servant's resulting consequences.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 32:1-2*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about a landowner who hires laborers for his vineyard. Those who were hired last were paid the same amount as those who were hired first. When the laborers complain, the landowner asks if he is allowed to do what he pleases with what is his.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 16:5-8*

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable about a king who wants to give a wedding banquet, but the guests do not come. The king sends out his slaves again and again to find guests, until finally, the king tells them to go into the streets and gather anyone they could so the wedding hall would be full.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 45:6-7*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30]

Jesus tells two parables. In the first, he tells the story of ten bridesmaids, five who were prepared and five who were not. In the second, he tells the story of a master who gives money to his servants. Some invest wisely and are rewarded. The one who invested poorly is punished.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 43:3-4*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus teaches his disciples that when the Son of Man returns, everyone will be separated like sheep from goats based upon their service to the king when the king was in need. The king explains that whenever they helped someone in need, they were truly helping the king.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 98:7-9*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

## Preaching Text

Matthew 21:1-17

Jesus enters Jerusalem in a way that fulfills prophetic expectations of the coming Messiah, riding humbly on a donkey. He then completes symbolic acts in the temple, to the anger of the religious leaders.

## Accompanying Text

*Psalm 118:25-29*

## Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

## Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

## Themes for Worship and Music

## Themes for Faith Formation

## Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus and his disciples keep the Passover in Jerusalem. At the meal, Jesus announces his upcoming betrayal. He also blesses and breaks bread, saying that it is his body. Then he calls the cup of wine his blood, which is poured out to forgive sins.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 116:12-15*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 27:27-61

Jesus is mocked and led to the site of his execution by Roman soldiers. Once he has been crucified, the mockery then comes from his religious opponents. Jesus cries out in anguish before dying and is buried in a tomb.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 22:1-2; 14-18*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



### Preaching Text

Matthew 28:1-10

The women find Jesus' tomb empty after an angel rolls away the stone and sits on it. The angel tells them not to fear for Jesus is risen. As they run from the tomb, they meet Jesus himself and worship him.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 118:19-24*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Matthew 28:16-20

The resurrected Jesus appears to the remaining eleven disciples in Galilee. He commissions them to baptize and make disciples who will follow his teachings. The Gospel ends with Jesus' promise to be with the church until the end of time.

### Accompanying Text

*Psalm 40:9-10*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

Cornelius and Peter both experience visions that lead to their conversion. Both men gain a broader understanding of what God is up to in the world.

### Accompanying Text

Matthew 9:36-37

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Paul and Barnabas take center stage in the narrative as they are sent by the Holy Spirit and the church to carry the gospel to Gentiles across the Roman world. Their mission leads to conversions, but also to trouble and mistaken intentions.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 10:40-42*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

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**Preaching Text**

Romans 1:1-17

In the introduction to his letter to the church in Rome, Paul explains by what authority he preaches. He then greets the Roman believers, and outlines the themes of the letter, including the role of faith, grace, and obedience, and the righteousness of God.

***Accompanying Text***

*Matthew 9:10-13*

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**Objective(s) for the Week**

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

[Empty box]

**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

[Empty box]

**Themes for Worship and Music**

[Empty box]

**Themes for Faith Formation**

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**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

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### Preaching Text

Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11

God's love for humanity has been shown in the death of Christ, who died for us even though we had done nothing to deserve it. This love that God has shown us gives us the courage and strength to face the sufferings of the world around us.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 11:28-30*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Romans 6:1-14

Because of our baptismal relationship with Christ, we have been freed from the dominion of sin in our lives. We now live under the sovereignty of grace.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 6:24*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children's Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)

### Preaching Text

Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-39

In Acts, a gathering of disciples receives the Holy Spirit and is sent out to begin the work of spreading the good news. Paul explains that this work not only renews humanity by bringing them into Christ but also fulfills God’s promise to renew all of creation.

### Accompanying Text

*Matthew 28:16-20*

### Objective(s) for the Week

What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

### Themes for Preaching & Children’s Message

### Themes for Worship and Music

### Themes for Faith Formation

### Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)



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**Preaching Text**

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*Accompanying Text*

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**Objective(s) for the Week**  
What outcome do you want from the sermon, education, and worship for the participants?

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**Themes for Preaching & Children's Message**

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**Themes for Worship and Music**

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**Themes for Faith Formation**

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**Other Notes (Media ideas, etc.)**

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## Narrative Lectionary

- *Living the Word: Kids (NL, PK-2nd)* – An engaging curriculum for lower elementary students to explore God's story through the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Kids (NL, 3rd-6th)* – An engaging curriculum for upper elementary students to explore God's story through the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Singing God's Story (NL, PK-6th)* – Original children's music that follows the Narrative Lectionary, tied to the unit themes. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Youth (NL)* – A fun, varied curriculum for confirmation or youth groups to follow the Narrative Lectionary, learning God's story in Scripture. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Small Groups (NL)* – Discussion guides for young adult or adult small groups matching the weekly readings of the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Education (NL)* – A curriculum designed to build relationships through intergenerational learning experiences in a classroom setting, following the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year, by quarter, and as individual lessons.
- *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Worship (NL)* – A set of relationship-building, interactive, intergenerational worship guides following the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year, by quarter, Advent & Christmas, Lent, Festivals, and as individual lessons.
- *Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home (NL)* – Weekly devotional resources bringing faith formation home with prayers, conversation starters, a daily Bible reading plan, and more, following the Narrative Lectionary. Available for the full year or by quarter.
- *Living the Word: Contexts & Connections (NL)* – A set of Bible background notes on each Narrative Lectionary reading for faith formation leaders to help them understand and prepare each week. Available for the full year or by quarter.



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## **Flexible, Topic-based Units**

- *Learning Together* – A set of independent, five-lesson units on a variety of topics or themes. These lessons are designed to be flexible: they can be used with children's or intergenerational classrooms, traditional or rotation models, weekly or even daily as a Vacation Bible School.

## **Revised Common Lectionary**

- *Living the Word: Cross+Gen Education (RCL)* – A curriculum designed to build relationships through intergenerational learning experiences in a classroom setting, following the Revised Common Lectionary. Available for the full year, by quarter, and as individual lessons.

## **Confirmation**

- *Chosen Together: Cross+Gen Confirmation* – A unique, intergenerational curriculum for confirmation students, mentors, families, and the whole congregation covering Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Includes a consultation with the curriculum writer. Available for the full year.

## **Worship Education**

- *Spirit & Truth: Kids (PK-2nd)* – A one-of-a-kind curriculum that teaches lower elementary students about worship, the liturgy, and the church year through illustrated stories and activities. Available for the full year or units on Liturgy, Church Festivals, Advent (PK-6th), Christmas Worship (PK-6th), and as individual lessons.
- *Spirit & Truth: Kids (3rd-6th)* – A one-of-a-kind curriculum that teaches upper elementary students about worship, the liturgy, and the church year through fun skits, short Bible studies, and activities. Available for the full year or units on Liturgy, Church Festivals, Advent (PK-6th), Christmas Worship (PK-6th), and as individual lessons.

## **Product Pricing & Delivery**

The pricing for most of our products varies depending upon the attendance range of the participants. Pricing summaries for our products are available on our website at [SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com](http://SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com) or by contacting the publisher.

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