



Living the Word: Cross+Gen Education

(Revised Common Lectionary)



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 (Revised Common Lectionary, Years C & A)* curriculum will be a helpful tool for your group to dig deeper into God's Word and the pattern of the church year 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's Guides to be resources and tools that will help your group richly experience God's Word and grow together in discipleship.

- ✝ **The Point:** Each lesson, is focused on "The Point," the main idea of the lesson.
- ✝ **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 Word," "Word in the World," and "Seasons of the Word" activities as the core of the curriculum, in that order of importance.
 - If you have time, check out the "Activities & Supplies" 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:** Three lessons within this curriculum are Extended Lessons. As we do not produce a full lesson for Easter Sunday (4/9/2023), we include the readings and celebration of that day into the following week's lesson. The lesson is longer, which gives leaders the option to use the lesson fruitfully both weeks, select activities to cover both passages in the same class, or only use the readings for Easter 2 (4/16/2023). The other two lessons are extended purely to cover more than one festival day. The lesson for 1/8/2023 covers both the festivals of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. The lesson for 4/2/2023 covers the stories of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

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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’s Guides to help you divide your large group into intergenerational smaller groups, when needed.

- † **Overview:** The first page of the Leader’s Guide give basic information about the lesson.
- † **Activities & Supplies:** This is the table of contents for the lesson activities. 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 three Bible readings, church season or festival, the Point, and a prayer of preparation.
- † **Into the Word:** This is a brief activity to help participants transition from walking into the room to being ready to dig into the Bible. It’s what is known in educational terms as a “set” or quick introduction that will help participants move into the lesson.
- † **Seasons of the Word (Core Activity 3):** Each lesson has an activity that helps participants learn about the festivals and seasons of the church year.
- † **Learning the Word (Core Activity 1):** Here is where the Gospel reading 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 Gospel story. This is the heart of the guide. If there is one thing not to skip—this is it.
- † **The Word in the World (Core Activity 2):** Each lesson seeks not only to help your group engage the Bible, but also to practice everyone’s faith by bringing God’s Word with them throughout the week.
- † **Beyond the Gospel:** Just because we focus on the Gospel reading doesn’t mean we neglect the others. Each week, this activity engages either the first or second readings of the day, which tend to be either an Old Testament passage or a reading from one of the New Testament Epistles.
- † **Additional Activities:** Like the name says, this section gives three more activities related to the Gospel reading, church year, or another of the day’s readings with additional support for different learning styles.
- † **Sending:** 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.
- † **The Word @ Home:** Each Leader’s Guide ends with a two-page take-home resource for participants. The first page gives “bite-sized” chunks of information to remind them of the Point, Bible readings, and Seasons & Festivals, along with a set of discussion starters. The second page provides a prayer and a blessing for the week and a set of daily Bible readings.

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