



Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story
God Provides Blessings	9/10/2017	Pentecost 14	#4-1	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	God's Good Creation
	9/17/2017	Pentecost 15	#4-2	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	God Provides for Abraham
	9/24/2017	Pentecost 16	#4-3	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Stolen Blessing, Blessed by God
	10/1/2017	Pentecost 17	#4-4	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17	Moses: Equipped by God
	10/8/2017	Pentecost 18	#4-5	Exodus 16:1-18	God Provides Gifts from Above
Called by God	10/15/2017	Pentecost 19	#4-6	1 Samuel 3:1-21	Listening for God's Call
	10/22/2017	Pentecost 20	#4-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ps. 51:10-14	God Chooses David for His Heart
	10/29/2017	Pentecost 21	#4-8	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	God's Call to Build the Temple
Promises of Hope	11/5/2017	Pentecost 22	#4-9	1 Kings 19:1-18	Elijah's Call in the Wilderness
	11/12/2017	Pentecost 23	#4-10	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24	God Promises Justice and Righteousness
	11/19/2017	Pentecost 24	#4-11	Isaiah 9:1-7	God's Light Shines in Darkness
	11/26/2017	Christ the King/ Thanksgiving (US)	#4-12	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14	God Fills our Future with Hope
God's Presence Brings Life	12/3/2017	Advent 1	#4-13	Daniel 3:1, 8-30	God's Presence in the Fiery Furnace
	12/10/2017	Advent 2	#4-14	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Dry Bones: New Life, New Hope
	12/17/2017	Advent 3	#4-15	Isaiah 55:1-11	Seeking God's Presence
	12/24/2017	Advent 4/Christmas Eve	#4-16	John 1:1-18	God Dwells Among Us
	12/25/2017	Christmas	#4-C1*	Luke 2:1-20	The Savior Brings Life to All
Encountering the Messiah	12/31/2017	Christmas 1	#4-C2	John 1:19-34	Preparing the Way for the Messiah
	1/7/2018	Epiphany 1	#4-17**	John 1:35-51	Come and See the Messiah
	1/14/2018	Epiphany 2	#4-18	John 2:1-11	The Messiah's Glory First Revealed
	1/21/2018	Epiphany 3	#4-19	John 2:13-25	The Messiah's Encounter at the Temple
Invitation to Abundant Life	1/28/2018	Epiphany 4	#4-20	John 3:1-21	New Life in the Spirit
	2/4/2018	Epiphany 5	#4-21	John 4:1-42	Abundant Life, Living Water
	2/11/2018	Transfiguration	#4-22	John 9:1-41	Seeing Abundant Life in Jesus
Following Jesus	2/14/2018	Ash Wednesday	#4-L1	John 10:1-18	Following the Shepherd
	2/18/2018	Lent 1	#4-23	John 11:1-44	Following Jesus from Death to Life
	2/25/2018	Lent 2	#4-24	John 13:1-17	Following the Servant
	3/4/2018	Lent 3	#4-25	John 18:12-27	Challenges of Following: Peter's Denial
God's Kingdom Revealed	3/11/2018	Lent 4	#4-26	John 18:28-40	A Kingdom Not of This World
	3/18/2018	Lent 5	#4-27	John 19:1-16a	The Kingdom's Power from Above
	3/25/2018	Palm/Passion Sunday	#4-28	John 19:16b-22 [12:12-27]	A Different Kind of King
	3/29/2018	Maundy Thursday	#4-L2	John 19:23-30	God's Kingdom Revealed on the Cross
	3/30/2018	Good Friday	#4-L3	John 19:31-42	Preparing the King for Burial
Good News Spreads	4/1/2018	Easter	#4-R1	John 20:1-18	Good News in the Garden
	4/8/2018	Easter 2	#4-29**	John 20:19-31	The Disciples Believe the Good News
	4/15/2018	Easter 3	#4-30	Acts 9:1-19	Saul Discovers the Good News
	4/22/2018	Easter 4	#4-31	Acts 16:16-34	Rejoicing in the Good News
Living in Hope	4/29/2018	Easter 5	#4-32	Acts 17:16-31	Sharing the Hope of Jesus
	5/6/2018	Easter 6	#4-33	Philippians 1:1-18a	Living with Love
	5/13/2018	Easter 7	#4-34	Philippians 2:1-13	Living Like Jesus
	5/20/2018	Pentecost	#4-35	Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7	Blessed to Share our Hope

* Reading #s that include letters (e.g. #4-C1) are not included in the regular curriculum products.

** Lessons #4-17 and 4-29 will be extended lessons (which include the text for the previous Sunday) in the regular curriculum products, but separate in the Contexts & Connections and the Cross+Gen Worship products.



Called by God, Blessed to Serve (Year 4, 2017-2018)

The stories of the Year 4 Narrative Lectionary tell of God's invitation into relationship given to all people, and the ways in which God provides gifts of grace at every turn. While Abraham seemed too old to father a nation, Moses too quiet to lead a people, and David too young to take over Israel, we see throughout the Old Testament that God repeatedly calls the unexpected to step out in faith. As the people answer God's call, God never fails to equip them for the journey. Throughout Scripture, gifts of grace are given to those answering God's call, especially at some of the most trying moments. From gifts of manna in the wilderness, to God's presence in the fiery furnace, to the promise of new life for the struggling Israelites, God's call to discipleship is never without God's blessing and provision each step of the way. As God chooses to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, God's commitment to relationship is distinctly clear. Jesus' invitations to abundant life reveal a relentless love that desires that all people know and serve God. His teachings reveal a kingdom that opposes traditional expectations of power and importance, always calling the least expected into God's mission of redemption. As the hope of the resurrection spreads, God's grace abounds in everyday moments and throughout the significant challenges of the early church. These early churches learn to rejoice, even in trials, always trusting in God's provision. Each of us are invited into a life of discipleship by our loving creator. God's continued presence and abounding grace allows us to answer God's call, and through those blessings, to live in hope as we serve Jesus through our neighbor.

God Provides Blessings (Pentecost: Sept. 10 to Oct. 8, 2017)

God created humans to be in relationship with their Creator and blessed them with all they would need. Desiring the best for us, God regularly calls us back into relationship, and invites imperfect people to be part of God's beautiful story of redemption. This relationship with God requires trust, and often challenges us to step out in this trust. Abraham, as well as Moses and the Israelites, were called to leave all they knew and trust in God's provision. Yet, when God calls, God also provides all that is needed to live faithfully as a blessing to others.

Called by God (Pentecost: Oct. 15 to Nov. 5, 2017)

God's calls are often surprising to us, as God looks not on the outside, but at the heart. God continues to invite unlikely people to be great leaders and pillars of the faith. These imperfect leaders answer God's call, allowing God to work through them in remarkable ways, even as their faults are sometimes evident. God's presence serves as a constant source of strength and peace and equips them to serve, though challenges may abound.

Promises of Hope (Pentecost: Nov. 12 to Nov. 26, 2017)

As the Israelites turn away from God and forget their calling to serve as a blessing to all nations, the prophets call them back to relationship with their creator. The prophets offer promises of hope to a people lost and dejected, reminding them that God will never abandon them and promises a future filled with hope. While the people may have turned from God, God will not turn away from them. God's plan for their future, and ours, is bright and filled with hope.

God's Presence Brings Life (Advent: Dec. 3 to Dec. 25, 2017)

God's everlasting promise to be in relationship with the Israelites and all creation allows hope to take root in even the most hopeless circumstances. God continues to provide and be faithful, bringing life where there was once death, like dry bones being gathered back to life. As texts move into the New Testament in this Advent season, hope is ultimately embodied in human form as God will go to any length to show love, even becoming flesh and dwelling with us. God's presence is found among us in the humble form of a child in Jesus, the one who brings true life to all.

Encountering the Messiah (Epiphany: Dec. 31, 2017 to Jan. 21, 2018)

In this season of Epiphany, we see Jesus' identity being revealed as he begins his ministry after his baptism by John. These stories represent a series of first encounters: Jesus' first interaction with the disciples, his first miracle, and his first conflict with the religious establishment. While these early stories in the Gospel reveal Jesus' power and his call to discipleship, they also set up questions regarding his true identity as Jesus hints, even now, that he is headed to the cross.

Invitation to Abundant Life (Epiphany: Jan. 28 to Feb. 11, 2018)

Jesus' ministry continues as he calls those around him into new life. Each interaction reveals more about Jesus' identity and the promises of God, as well as God's desire for all to know abundant life. From invitations to be born anew through the Spirit, to promises of living water, these encounters with Jesus leave the individuals changed and further illustrate Jesus' purpose and ministry of bringing life to all.

Following Jesus (Lent: Feb. 14 to Mar. 4, 2018)

Upon entering Lent, the time when we draw near to Jesus as we prepare to remember his death and resurrection, more is revealed about Jesus' call to discipleship. Jesus invites all to follow him and promises to be the good shepherd providing and caring for his flock. His disciples are to listen to his voice and serve as he serves. Jesus' great love is clear as he weeps over Lazarus' death, and his great power evident as he raises him back to life. In Peter's denial, we see that we often struggle to live up to this call to follow Jesus.

God's Kingdom Revealed (Lent: Mar. 11 to Mar. 30, 2018)

As we follow Jesus to the cross, Jesus' kingdom repeatedly clashes with the one of this world. God's kingdom is described as one much more powerful than the one of Pilate and the High Priests. Still, Jesus remains obedient, trusting that all power comes from God and continuing his journey to the cross. As the crowd denies their faith and proclaims Caesar their only lord, Jesus is crucified with the mocking inscription of King of the Jews. Jesus dies, and is buried in the garden in a quiet ceremony, but the true power of God's kingdom is yet to be revealed.

Good News Spreads (Easter: Apr. 1 to Apr. 22, 2018)

On Easter morning, Jesus calls Mary by name, and the good news of Jesus' resurrection begins to spread. As more and more see the risen Messiah, their doubt changes to belief and the story of Easter is shared, that all might believe this good news. Through the faithful service of disciples, those who are least likely, like Saul and the jailer, also come to believe in the hope of Jesus.

Living in Hope (Easter: Apr. 29 to May 20, 2018)

The early church continues to share and proclaim the gospel, inviting others into the life of discipleship. These church leaders learn to live in hope, trusting that God's grace is sufficient even in trials. They continue to rejoice in God's goodness and love in all situations as they are equipped to serve in Jesus' name. As they answer God's call to be the church, the gifts of God's grace are ever present.