



Theme	Date	Season/Festival	Lesson #	Lectionary Text	Story
God's Promises Bring Hope	9/9/2018	Rally Day	#1-1	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17	Noah and the Ark
	9/16/2018	Pentecost 17	#1-2	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abram
	9/23/2018	Pentecost 18	#1-3	Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph's Hope
	9/30/2018	Pentecost 19	#1-4	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29	Parting of the Red Sea
	10/7/2018	Pentecost 20	#1-5	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Living Faithfully in the Promise	10/14/2018	Pentecost 21	#1-6	Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]	Joshua Serves God
	10/21/2018	Pentecost 22	#1-7	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9	Nathan and King David
	10/28/2018	Pentecost 23	#1-8	1 Kings 3:4-28	Solomon's Wisdom
	11/4/2018	Pentecost 24	#1-9	2 Kings 5:1-15a	Elisha Heals Naaman
God's Plan for Peace	11/11/2018	Pentecost 25	#1-10	Micah [1:3-5] 5:2-5a; 6:6-8	Mercy, Justice, and Peace
	11/18/2018	Pentecost 26	#1-11	Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4	God's Plan for Peace
	11/25/2018	Christ the King/Thanksgiving	#1-12	Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11	Jeremiah's Call
Faith in God's Promises	12/2/2018	Advent 1	#1-13	Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19	Waiting and Watching
	12/9/2018	Advent 2	#1-14	Esther 4:1-17	Esther Leads
	12/16/2018	Advent 3	#1-15	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Savior is Coming
	12/23/2018	Advent 4	#1-16	Matthew 1:18-25	Joseph Trusts God
God's Promise of Jesus	1/6/2019	Epiphany	#1-17*	Matthew 1:1-17; 2:1-23	God Protects Jesus
	1/13/2019	Epiphany 1	#1-18	Matthew 3:1-17	Jesus and John the Baptist
	1/20/2019	Epiphany 2	#1-19	Matthew 4:1-17	Temptation in the Wilderness
Learning to Follow	1/27/2019	Epiphany 3	#1-20	Matthew 5:1-20	Sermon on the Mount
	2/3/2019	Epiphany 4	#1-21	Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]	The Lord's Prayer
	2/10/2019	Epiphany 5	#1-22	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29	Built on the Rock
God's Power	2/17/2019	Epiphany 6	#1-23	Matthew 13:24-45	Faith Like a Mustard Seed
	2/24/2019	Epiphany 7	#1-24	Matthew 14:13-33	Feeding of the 5,000
	3/3/2019	Transfiguration	#1-25	Matthew 16:24-17:8	The Transfiguration
The Ways of the Kingdom	3/10/2019	Lent 1	#1-26	Matthew 18:15-35	The Unforgiving Servant
	3/17/2019	Lent 2	#1-27	Matthew 20:1-16	The Laborers in the Vineyard
	3/24/2019	Lent 3	#1-28	Matthew 22:1-14	The Wedding Banquet
	3/31/2019	Lent 4	#1-29	Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30]	The Parable of the Talents
	4/7/2019	Lent 5	#1-30	Matthew 25:31-46	When Did We See You?
God's Greatest Promise	4/14/2019	Palm/Passion Sunday	#1-31	Matthew 21:1-17	Triumphal Entry
	4/28/2019	Easter 2	#1-32*	Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20	The Risen Jesus
Called to Share	5/5/2019	Easter 3	#1-33	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48	Peter's Vision
	5/12/2019	Easter 4	#1-34	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18	Paul and Barnabas Commissioned
	5/19/2019	Easter 5	#1-35	Romans 1:1-17	Called to be Saints
Gifts of God's Grace	5/26/2019	Easter 6/Memorial Day Weekend	#1-36	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11	Peace and Hope
	6/2/2019	Easter 7	#1-37	Romans 6:1-14	Freedom From Sin
	6/9/2019	Pentecost	#1-38	Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-39	The Promise of the Holy Spirit

* Lessons #1-17 and 1-32 will be extended lessons (longer lessons that include the passage for the previous Sunday) in the following curriculum products: Kids (PK-2nd), Kids (3rd-6th), Youth, Small Groups, and Cross+Gen Education. Therefore there are not separate lessons created for 12/31/2017 (New Year's Eve Day) or 4/1/2018 (Easter).



Guided by God's Promises (Year 1, 2018-2019)

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 ever again. Continuing with the covenant with the Israelites, to 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. 9 to Oct. 7, 2018

God's promises bring hope for the future. After the flood, God promises never to flood the earth, and affirms God's loving relationship with all people. Calling Abram from his home, God promises him a future of descendants through which all the world will be blessed. God's continued presence brings Joseph hope even as he faces trials of many kinds. Rescuing the Israelites, God promises to be their God, a covenant which becomes 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. 14 to Nov. 4, 2018

God has made a covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai, providing instructions on the ways to live that bring life to all and promising to be with them. Joshua and Solomon remember God's covenant and seek to serve God wisely. Their example helps others to live faithfully in God's covenant as well. Living faithfully and trusting God creates opportunities to share God's power with others, as Elisha did in healing Naaman. Yet, because of sin, it can be a struggle to live in the ways God desires. David reveals that we can often stray from God, making decisions that bring pain instead of life. Still, no matter what we do, God is always faithful, and always offers forgiveness and love.

God's Plan for Peace

Pentecost: Nov. 11 to Nov. 25, 2018

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. God has an important role in mind for Jeremiah, though he is just a

boy. God equips him with the words to speak to call people to repentance. Jeremiah shares that God desires that they should live in ways that bring hope and peace to all, with their actions matching their words. God has a plan for hope and peace for all of creation.

Faith in God's Promises

Advent: Dec. 2 to Dec. 23, 2018

It can often be difficult to trust in God's timing, especially when the wait seems long, or it seems like there is no possible solution to a situation. The passages in this unit remind us that God does not forget our struggles, but instead intervenes on our behalf, renewing the promises. God promises in Habakkuk that redemption will come, though it may not be immediate. What seems like a challenging moment for Esther, is actually the perfect moment, ordained by God, for her to be faithful, saving many. Perhaps most importantly, God promises a savior. Though the time has not yet come, God will be faithful, and is always doing something new. As the details of Jesus' birth unfold, God guides Joseph as he struggles to accept a plan very different than he might have imagined, but one 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 the ways in which God is faithful.

God's Promise of Jesus

Christmas & Epiphany: Dec. 25, 2017 to Jan. 20, 2019

Throughout the Old Testament, God has promised a savior. Now that the time has come, God's promises continue to be revealed through Jesus' birth. The shepherds discover that the promise of a savior is meant for everyone, including them. Even wise men from far away are brought into God's plan of redemption for the world as they follow a star to meet the baby Jesus. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise that through Abraham's descendants, all the world will be blessed, showing that God keeps promises through dozens of generations. God continues to protect Jesus and his family as more recognize who he is. John reminds people of the promise of Jesus, preparing the way, as Jesus' identity becomes even more clear in baptism.



Living the Word

Teaching God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 1

2018-2019 Themes

Learning to Follow

Epiphany: Jan. 27 to Feb. 10, 2019

Following his baptism and temptation in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry by teaching. Jesus instructs those listening to live in ways that glorify God and build up the kingdom. In the Sermon on the Mount, followers hear of the qualities that matter most in the kingdom and who they are called to be as disciples of Jesus. Jesus' lessons on prayer and judging others teach us how to build our lives on the rock, creating habits and making decisions that are guided by God's promises. Through Jesus' teaching we learn more about what matters most to God, and the ways we are called to respond as faithful disciples.

God's Power

Epiphany: Feb. 17 to Mar. 3, 2019

Living as disciples, we remember that God is all-powerful. 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. In this unit's first lesson, Jesus teaches that things that seem small, like a mustard seed, can with God's power, become something great. We are also reminded that, ultimately, judgment is up to God, and not to us. It is God who is the one in charge. Through these acts of power, we get a glimpse of how things will be in God's kingdom, where what might seem weak is actually strong. Even if we might feel small or inexperienced, God can accomplish big things in and through us. Through faith, the disciples are able to distribute food to over 5,000 people and Peter is able to walk on water. 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: Mar. 6 to Apr. 7, 2019

Jesus teaches that in God's kingdom, things are different than we might expect. Sometimes it even seems as though it is opposite or 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. As disciples, we are called to be extravagantly generous and relentlessly forgiving, learning that these are the ways of God and God's kingdom. Entrusted with many gifts and lavish grace, we learn to live out these kingdom ways, sharing God's love and promises with others and using all that we have been given to bring glory to God.

God's Greatest Promise

Holy Week & Easter: Apr. 14 to Apr. 28, 2019

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. Yet as he cleanses the temple and clashes with the religious leaders, we see he is a very different kind of king. In fact, 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 discover 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: May 5 to May 19, 2019

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 wishing to be baptized 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 26 to Jun. 9, 2019

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.