

Fall 2023

<i>Date and Text</i>	<i>Session Goal</i>
<p>Session 1 September 3, 2023 <i>Proper 17</i> Exodus 3:1–15</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will enjoy the story of Moses’ call and imagine how God might speak to them.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will retell the story of Moses’ call and practice ways of listening for God’s voice.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will analyze the story of Moses and the burning bush and consider what God might be calling them to do.</p>
<p>Session 2 September 10, 2023 <i>Proper 18</i> Matthew 18:15–20</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn from Jesus the importance of working out their problems and coming together in prayer.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will learn about ways the Christian community can heal disagreements.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will learn more about Jesus’ ways of healing conflicts and his promise to be with us.</p>
<p>Session 3 September 17, 2023 <i>Proper 19</i> Matthew 18:21–35</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover that Jesus wants us to forgive one another again and again.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will recognize that forgiveness is central in Jesus’ teachings.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will recognize, through Jesus’ parable of the Unforgiving Servant, the importance of practicing forgiveness.</p>
<p>Session 4 September 24, 2023 <i>Proper 20</i> Matthew 20:1–16</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will consider, through the parable of the Vineyard Laborers, how God’s love turns some of the world’s ways upside down.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will recognize that God’s generosity and justice are different than what the world teaches.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will celebrate the radical generosity of God as expressed in Jesus’ parable of the Vineyard Laborers.</p>

<i>Date and Text</i>	<i>Session Goal</i>
<p>Session 5 October 1, 2023 <i>Proper 21</i> Matthew 21:23–32</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will explore the parable of the Two Sons and discover ways we are changed by God’s love.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will identify Jesus as the presence and power of God’s authority in the world.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will be encouraged to pay more than “lip service” to Jesus as they hear his parable of the Two Sons.</p>
<p>Session 6 October 8, 2023 <i>Proper 22</i> Matthew 21:33–46</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will uncover, through the parable of the Wicked Tenants, the importance of serving God.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will explore the story of the wicked tenants in the vineyard and what Jesus is teaching about following him.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will identify ways to nurture the fruits of God’s kingdom in response to Jesus’ parable of the Wicked Tenants.</p>
<p>Session 7 October 15, 2023 <i>Proper 23</i> Matthew 22:1–14</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will receive God’s invitation to the banquet with joy and a willingness to respond.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will wonder how we might respond to God’s invitation to celebrate God’s way of living.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will explore how to live as guests at God’s party in response to Jesus’ parable of the Wedding Feast.</p>
<p>Session 8 October 22, 2023 <i>Proper 24</i> 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children, like Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians, will give thanks for their community of believers.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will discover, by reading Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, how the Holy Spirit is active in the life of the church.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will give thanks for their community of faith as they read Paul’s thanksgiving for the Thessalonians.</p>

<i>Date and Text</i>	<i>Session Goal</i>
<p>Session 9 October 29, 2023 <i>Proper 25</i> Matthew 22:34–46</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover the greatest commandment through activities with their church school friends.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will be challenged by Jesus’ teaching about the greatest commandment to consider how loving God calls us to love others.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will wonder with the Pharisee how loving God with heart, soul, and mind might change the way they live.</p>
<p>Session 10 November 5, 2023 <i>Proper 26</i> Matthew 23:1–12</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will hear Jesus’ teach about the scribes and Pharisees and practice serving others.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will learn, through exploring Jesus’ criticism of the Pharisees, how Jesus calls them to strive to have their walk match their talk.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will consider Jesus’ words about the Pharisees and think about what it means to live honest-to-God lives.</p>
<p>Session 11 November 12, 2023 <i>Proper 27</i> Matthew 25:1–13</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will listen to the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids and wonder what it means to be ready for the good things God gives.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will learn from the ten bridesmaids the blessings of being both patient and prepared.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will be encouraged by the story of the ten bridesmaids to look forward expectantly and prepare faithfully.</p>
<p>Session 12 November 19, 2023 <i>Proper 28</i> Matthew 25:14–30</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will explore the parable of the Talents and the God-given gifts they have to share with other people.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will be encouraged by the parable of the Talents to choose to live boldly because of God’s love.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will be challenged by Jesus’ parable to live boldly as they offer their time and talents in service to God.</p>

<i>Date and Text</i>	<i>Session Goal</i>
<p>Session 13 November 26, 2023 <i>Reign of Christ</i> Matthew 25:31–46</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will hear Isaiah’s message of peace and identify ways to live in God’s peace.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will examine God’s promise of peace and enter Advent with thanks for Christ’s light and love.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will picture the peaceful future prophesied in Isaiah 2 and consider ways of working for peace in the present.</p>

Winter 2023–2024

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 1 December 3, 2023 <i>Advent 1 Year B</i> 1 Corinthians 1:3–9</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn, use, and receive grace-filled words with their friends as they learn about Paul’s letter.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will be reassured, by Paul’s letter to the Corinthian Christians, that in Jesus we have everything we need to live faithfully.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will prepare for Christ’s coming by speaking and receiving words of blessing and grace as Paul did.</p>
<p>Session 2 December 10, 2023 <i>Advent 2</i> Mark 1:1–8</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will investigate what John the Baptizer said in the wilderness.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will consider John’s teaching about making changes as they prepare for the coming of Jesus.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will prepare for Christ’s coming by practicing confession, as called for by John the Baptizer.</p>
<p>Session 3 December 17, 2023 <i>Advent 3</i> Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will be introduced to Isaiah’s image of the “year of the Lord’s favor” and how they can participate in it.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will imagine how we can participate in Isaiah’s vision of God’s new and just creation.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will prepare for Christ’s coming by claiming the Spirit’s power to act for justice, as described by the prophet Isaiah.</p>
<p>Session 4 December 24, 2023 <i>Advent 4</i> Luke 1:26–38</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will wonder at Mary’s faithful response to Gabriel’s announcement and how they might be called by God.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will discover, with Mary, what it means to be instruments and messengers of God’s birthing presence in the world.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will prepare for Christ’s coming by engaging the story of the Annunciation and acting as messengers of good news.</p>

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 5 December 31, 2023 <i>Christmas 1</i> Luke 2:22–40</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will ponder the faithful waiting of Anna and Simeon.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will consider what it means to witness the saving power of God in Jesus, as Simeon and Anna did.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will be encouraged to persevere in their hope in God, as did Simeon and Anna.</p>
<p>Session 6 January 7, 2024 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Genesis 1:1–5</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover that God is the Creator, and that all life depends on God.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will perceive how God’s Spirit is essential in the creation of new beginnings.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will worship God, the Creator of new beginnings.</p>
<p>Session 7 January 14, 2024 <i>Epiphany 2</i> 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will imagine, as they engage the story of young Samuel, how they might listen for God’s voice.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will explore Samuel’s call and think about how they listen for God’s call in their lives.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will enjoy the story of Samuel’s call and reflect on the ways in which God might be speaking to them.</p>
<p>Session 8 January 21, 2024 <i>Epiphany 3</i> Mark 1:14–20</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will explore the story of Jesus calling the first disciples and wonder how Jesus calls them, too.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders, through the story of Jesus calling the disciples, learn that the good news gives us exciting work to do.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will ponder how they, like the fishers, can respond to Jesus’ call to follow him and share in God’s exciting work.</p>

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 9 January 28, 2024 <i>Epiphany 4</i> Psalm 111</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover, through Psalm 111, that psalms are a way to praise God.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will utilize the acrostic Psalm 111 to articulate their appreciation of God’s wondrous works.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will shout praises with the psalmist as they celebrate the ways that God is at work in the world.</p>
<p>Session 10 February 4, 2024 <i>Epiphany 5</i> Mark 1:29–39</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn, through stories of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, about Jesus’ work of healing, praying, and preaching God’s message.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will encounter the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law and recognize acts of service as acts of gratitude.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will be helped by the story of Peter’s mother-in-law to recognize that we can pass on God's grace through loving service.</p>
<p>Session 11 February 11, 2024 <i>Transfiguration</i> Mark 9:2–9</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn, through the story of the Transfiguration, that God wants us to listen to Jesus.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will contemplate the Transfiguration and how God-given moments of mysterious wonder might encourage our everyday faithfulness.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will engage the mystery and wonder of the Transfiguration as they explore the various ways that the identity of Jesus is revealed.</p>
<p>Session 12 February 18, 2024 <i>Lent 1</i> Genesis 9:8–17</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn about God’s promise of everlasting love to Noah and all creation.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will embrace how God’s covenant with Noah gives all people hope for second chances.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will begin Lent by recognizing God’s love and desire for relationship with humankind, as shown through the story of Noah.</p>



<p>Session 13 February 25, 2024 <i>Lent 2</i> Mark 8:31–38</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will ponder Peter’s rebuke of Jesus and Jesus’ response.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will examine what Jesus means when he says they must deny themselves and take up their cross to follow him.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will express their understanding of what it means to “take up their cross” in their daily lives.</p>
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Spring 2024

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 1 March 3, 2024 <i>Lent 3</i> Exodus 20:1–17</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn about the Ten Commandments.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will learn about the Ten Commandments and their value to God’s people.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will consider how the Ten Commandments express God’s love for us.</p>
<p>Session 2 March 10, 2024 <i>Lent 4</i> Ephesians 2:1–10</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover that God’s saving love is a gift.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will consider what it means to accept God’s gift of grace.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will thank God for the free gift of salvation—from sin and for good works.</p>
<p>Session 3 March 17, 2024 <i>Lent 5</i> Jeremiah 31:31–34</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will explore the joy of having their sins forgotten by God, as promised in Jeremiah.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will imagine what it means when Jeremiah says God’s covenant will be written in their hearts.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will draw on Jeremiah’s prophecy of the new covenant for assurance of God’s unchanging love.</p>
<p>Session 4 March 24, 2024 <i>Palm/Passion</i> Mark 11:1–11; 15:1–39</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will enjoy the story of Palm Sunday.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will enter into the story of Jesus’ passion and wonder what it means to follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will think in new ways about power and love in the light of Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion.</p>

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 5 March 31, 2024 <i>Easter</i> Mark 16:1–8</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will be amazed with Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Salome at the discovery of the empty tomb.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will celebrate and wonder about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will wonder, with the women at the empty tomb, about the reality of Jesus’ resurrection.</p>
<p>Session 6 April 7, 2024 <i>Easter 2</i> Acts 4:32–35</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will hear about the early believers sharing their possessions and investigate how we can share our possessions today.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will examine the life of the early church to discover ways to be “of one heart and mind.”</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will investigate the early Christian church and imagine how the resurrection of Jesus might transform their own community of faith.</p>
<p>Session 7 April 14, 2024 <i>Easter 3</i> Luke 24:36b–48</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will explore a story of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples after the resurrection and ponder the disciple’s feelings.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will see early believers move from fear and doubt to understanding and commitment.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will examine another resurrection story and observe the disciples’ responses of fear, doubt, and then joy.</p>
<p>Session 8 April 21, 2024 <i>Easter 4</i> John 10:11–18</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will listen to Jesus’ words about being a good shepherd and grow in understanding what it means to be part of Jesus’ flock.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will ponder why Jesus calls himself the good shepherd and what it means for them.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will investigate the characteristics of the model Shepherd and come to a deeper understanding of how we all belong to Jesus.</p>

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 9 April 28, 2024 <i>Easter 5</i> Acts 8:26–40</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will grapple with the ways God is at work in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian official and in their lives.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will discover the power of the Holy Spirit to break down walls that divide, like the ones between Philip and the Ethiopian official.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will study the story of the Ethiopian official and be reminded that God’s love and power have no limits.</p>
<p>Session 10 May 5, 2024 <i>Easter 6</i> Acts 10:44–48</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will discover God’s welcome to everyone everywhere in the story of the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will discern, through the story of Peter and Cornelius, how the Holy Spirit works in ways we do not expect.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will engage with the story of Peter and Cornelius and observe that no boundaries can limit the work and purpose of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Session 11 May 12, 2024 <i>Easter 7</i> Acts 1:15–17, 21–26</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn from the story of Matthias about praying to God about important decisions they make.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth- graders will enter the story of Matthias to focus on the role of prayer in making decisions.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens, through the story of the disciples choosing a new apostle, will highlight the importance of prayer when seeking to discern the will of God.</p>
<p>Session 12 May 19, 2024 <i>Pentecost</i> Acts 2:1–21</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will learn, through the awe-filled story of Pentecost, about the beginnings of the church.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will celebrate the birthday of the church with the awesome story of Pentecost.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will celebrate the awe-inspiring story of the coming of the Holy Spirit on all believers.</p>

Date	Session Goal
<p>Session 13 May 26, 2024 <i>Trinity</i> Isaiah 6:1–8</p>	<p>(K)1–2: Children will hear about Isaiah’s experience in the temple and wonder about God’s awesome presence in the world.</p> <p>3–4: Third- and fourth-graders will explore the story of Isaiah in the temple and celebrate God’s majesty.</p> <p>Tweens: Tweens will delve into Isaiah’s vision in the temple and consider the ways they respond to God’s majesty.</p>