

Keeping Up with the Lectionary

By Erin Davis Gibbons



Learn about the Lectionary of Sunday readings and explore some of the Bible readings listed in it.

For

Young Adult

Season

Summer

Needed

Bible, wireless device, Internet access



Activity Plan

1. Many churches follow a lectionary to determine which Bible readings to use in Sunday worship. *Lection* is a term that means a Bible passage read in worship. A lectionary is an organized group of scripture readings for use in worship over a period of time. There is historical evidence that Christian churches have used such lists of scripture readings since the fourth century. The assigned biblical readings in most lectionaries correspond to the seasons of the church year—Advent, Christmas, Season after the Epiphany (also called Ordinary Time), Lent, Easter, Season after Pentecost (also called Ordinary Time).

Typically, a lectionary gives four readings for each Sunday: an Old Testament reading, a reading from a New Testament letter or Acts, a Gospel reading, and a Psalm. The four scriptures relate to each other, as well as to the season of the church year.

2. The Revised Common Lectionary is used by many Protestant and churches. Catholics use the Catholic Lectionary, which is nearly identical with the Revised Common Lectionary. To find the scripture passages designated for each Sunday, visit [Revised Common Lectionary Web Site](#), or the [Catholic Lectionary](#) site.
3. Look up the readings for next Sunday and read them. If you only have time to read one, choose the Gospel reading. Think about the readings, using the following questions:
 - What seems to be the theme or topic across this week's readings?
 - What's the good news in these passages?
 - What's challenging in these passages?
 - Why do you think these passages were chosen as a group?
 - What questions do you have about these passages?
 - If you were preaching on one of these passages, which one would you choose? What message would you emphasize for your congregation?
 - If you were listening to a sermon on one of these passages, which one would you like it to be?

4. Pray:

Dear God, you gave me your Word to help me learn about you. Sometimes I understand your message, and sometimes I don't. Be with me as I study the Bible and help me to see your love and grace in every story. Amen.

5. Repeat this process each week with the readings for the coming Sunday.

