WELCOME TO THE WHIRL NRSV BIBLE SAMPLER!

Kids in third through sixth grade explore this Bible for every lesson in the Whirl lectionary Sunday school curriculum. This Sampler contains everything you need to check out the unique features of the Whirl NRSV Bible.

ABOUT COLOR

Every reading in the Revised Common Lectionary is highlighted in this Bible. The color corresponds to the church season in which it’s read. For readings used in more than one season, you’ll find multicolored passages.

GENESIS 45:9

PHARAOH, and took all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.’ 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have; I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. 11 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 12 You must tell my father here greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that I have seen. 13 Hurry and bring your father down here. 14 Then he will send his sons down to you, and as they were coming down on their way, and as they were tears and said to them, ‘Do not quarrel along the way. 15 So they went out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. 16 And they told him, ‘Joseph is still alive! He is even ruler over all the land of Egypt!’ 17 He was stunned; he could not believe them. 18 But when they told him all the words of Joseph that he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of his father Jacob revived. 19 He said, ‘Through My son Joseph I am still alive; I have seen his own hand shall close your eyes.’ 20 And Jacob’s sons heeded Joseph’s words, and took their father to Egypt. 21 Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Tell my father, the shepherd of our father Jacob, 22 that there is your brother Benjamin, whom you sold indeed. 23 Now do not be angry with yourselves for the sale of me. 24 For God sent me before you to preserve life in the land of Canaan, and I have made him lord of all Egypt. 25 If you will do this favor to my father and to all his household, and if you will deal faithfully and truly with my father, 26 then you shall do this: take this cup of wine and give it to your father to drink, and ask him how he is, and all is well with him. 27 And you shall say to your brothers, ‘Tell our father, the shepherd of our father Jacob, 28 that Joseph is still alive, and that all that was said against you by Pharaoh’s officers is falsehood.’ 29 You shall also say to my father, ‘Please let me find grace in the sight of my father, I pray, and show kindness to me in his sight, and give me life, I pray, instead of my youth.’ 30 And Joseph brought his father Jacob down from the carriage, and he bowed down himself to the earth 31 and wept upon his father Jacob wept upon his neck. 32 And he kissed all his brothers, and kissed them; and after that his brothers, 33 he went down to Egypt, and all his household, 34 and took his brothers and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 5 Then Jacob set out from Beer-sheba, 6 and the men that were with him, and they took up the luggage, and the goods that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came into Egypt. 7 Jacob and all his children and his household and his flocks, and all his herds, and all his possessions, came to Egypt. 8 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, ‘I have had forty years; and now the days of my life are an hundred years. 9 And these my sons and my grandchildren, whom you have dealt so well with me, my God, in giving me life, as you spoke, I will not put an end to it, 10 but will go down into Egypt to my son Joseph, whom you will see face to face; and you shall tell him, “Behold, your father is well; and he shall live.” 11 And he went down into Egypt, he, all his sons and his household, 12 and Joseph’s sons and Joseph’s sons’ sons, and all his kindred, 13 and he brought down with him into Egypt his father Jacob, his father’s household, and his brothers, and all his brothers’ household, 14 his father’s sons and his father’s sons’ sons, and all that he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and their livestock and the goods that they had sent to carry him. 15 So they came into Egypt; Jacob and all his household, 16 and his sons and his children, and all his kindred; 17 after those things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 18 So Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 19 And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring; as a slave born in my house is to me, so shall I have none of you;” 20 but to Benjamin he gave only three hundred pieces of silver. 21 As for Lot’s daughters, they were unmarriageable women in the land of Canaan, and no man could take them. 22 And he gave them wagons according to the instruction of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. 23 And they went out of Egypt and came to Abram in Egypt. 24 When Abram came out of Egypt, 25 he said to his servant who was over his household, “Look; I have made you lord over all that you have; there is no one but your very own is with you. 26 And you shall go to the land of the Chaldeans to take a wife for my son Isaac.” 27 And the servant said to him, “Surely the God of my master will make all this come to pass according to his word; of whom I am a servant. 28 But as for the cattle of the men whose lords are before you, you shall not take any of their cattle, lest there be an evil heart among your masters against you, and you lift a hand against them. 29 And he sent his servant toward the south to take a wife for his son Isaac. 30 And the servant took ten camels, and departed, and took his master’s goods in his hand. And he rose and went to Mesopotamia, to the house of his master’s brother. 31 And the servant said to his master, “Surely I am going to my master’s brother; and if he is well to my master, then remain with my master’s brother; but if he is not well to my master, then I will be free from this.” 32 And the servant took ten camels, loaded with all the goods that his master had given him, and rose and went to Mesopotamia, to the house of his master’s brother. 33 And he saw a virgin, and she was beautiful and fair, and she was Leah the daughter of Rebekah. 34 And the servant said to his master’s brother, “Shall I find a wife, a virgin, for my master’s son Isaac?” 35 And he said, “Take one of the virgins of the daughters of the house of my father, and go.” 36 And the servant said to him, “Take me, I pray, to your master’s brother; and I will speak to him for you, and he shall give me his daughter for my master’s son. 37 But if he will not give her to me, then I will be free from this.” 38 And the servant took one of his master’s oxen, and of his goods which his master had given him, and rose and went to Mesopotamia to Abraham his master. 39 And the servant took a đồng and five sets of garments, and he rose by night and took Leah the daughter of Rebekah and her maid with him; and he rose by night and took Rachel the daughter of Leah and her maid with him. 40 And he carried the cattle of his master, and all that he had acquired, according to all that his master’s brother had given him. 41 And Abraham’s servant said to Leah his master’s sister, “I have found favor in the sight of the Lord, and have been richly rewarded. 42 And now, if you will indeed show kindness to my master, tell me, and I will be free from this; 43 unless you show kindness, tell me, and I will turn back to my master, and he will not find me.” 44 And she said, “The Lord has blessed my master greatly; and he is rich in both cattle and livestock and servants and maidservants and also in flocks and herds. 45 The Lord has blessed my master and made his house prosperous; and he has given him sheep and cattle and servants and maidservants and camels and donkeys. 46 He has not left anything but me and your master’s brother to my master, and I am the last of all the household of my master. 47 But when I heard your servant saying, ‘The Lord has blessed my master greatly,’ 48 then I said to myself, ‘Surely this is his master.’ Wherever he turns, I will go with him.’ 49 And the servant found Rachel, and she was weeping, and she was milk-white; 50 for she was the daughter of Laban, and she had not been shaved. And the servant told these words to his master. 51 And when the time came for Abraham’s servant to take a wife for his master’s son Isaac, 52 his servant took a knife of brass and a dish of gold and a dish of silver and clothes, and went to the field where his master’s brother was, and to the land of his master’s God. 53 And when the servant found Rachel, he told these words to his master. 54 And when the servant saw Leah his master’s sister, he told these things to his master. 55 And the servant blessed her with saying, “The Lord has greatly blessed my master; and behold, these are all the goods that he has given me.” 56 And the servant entered the tent, and took Leah his master’s sister, and brought her forth, and gave her to Isaac his master’s son. And he did the same thing with Rachel. 57 And the servant gave Isaac the ring of gold and bracelets of gold, and shoes of silver, and all the goods, and he sent them with her and her maid, who followed her. 58 And Isaac brought them to Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her, and Rebekah lived in his house.”
ABOUT ADDITIONAL CONTENT
Every book in the Whirl NRSV Bible has a one-page introduction. Kids can also read about the Bible’s seven sections to learn more about how the books of the Bible are organized. In the back of their Bible, kids will find a listing of every reading in the three-year lectionary. They can also look up Bible story locations on nine colorful fully-illustrated maps.

ABOUT ICONS
As kids experience the church year together in Whirl, they’ll see it is full of seasons, festivals, and holy days. Circular icons for each of these seasons and days are used throughout Whirl resources. As kids see these symbols, they can identify seasons and colors at a glance.
WHO is the audience for this book?
The Gospel of John was written around the year 100 AD. In the years leading up to this time, some of the first Christians, who were also Jews, spoke in their synagogues about Jesus. But around 70 AD, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Following this event, the Pharisees took charge of the Jewish faith. They did not want people talking about Jesus. Many Jewish Christians experienced rejection within their communities. John’s Gospel may have been written for these early followers of Jesus.

WHAT does this book tell us?
John tells seven very long stories about Jesus. (The other three Gospels include much shorter stories about Jesus.) In these stories, Jesus taught about himself using statements that begin with “I am.” John also describes seven miracles, or signs, that Jesus performed during his life. Chapter 1 of John’s Gospel starts at the beginning of everything, not just the start of Jesus’ earthly life and ministry.

WHY is this book important?
John’s Gospel offers some different stories and perspectives about Jesus compared to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These stories help us learn more about who Jesus was. While every gospel tells us that Jesus was divine and human, John’s gospel makes it clear that Jesus is the Word who was with God in the beginning and who is God. Toward the end of John’s Gospel, we read that the signs recorded in this book “are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God” (Chapter 20:31).

WHEN do we read this book during the lectionary?
The other three Gospels are read during specific years: Matthew in Year A, Mark in B, and Luke in C. Readings from John are included in every year of the lectionary during just about every church season. Because readings from John’s Gospel are included throughout all three years, we hear stories that are not included in the other gospels, like the wedding in Cana, the meeting with Nicodemus, and the raising of Lazarus.
body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. 42 And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 17 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

JESUS AND THOMAS

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with
them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

JESUS APPEARS TO SEVEN DISCIPLES

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” 13 So Simon Peter went up and drew the net to shore; it was full of large fish, yet the net was not torn.

Somebody gives you a one-hundred-dollar bill. Write three things that help you know it is real. How do we know Jesus is real?

Other ancient authorities read may continue to believe

Or the Christ

Gk Didymus

Gk two hundred cubits