



26 Monday

Green

**What's the Word?**

The definition of **understand** is...  
How are the words *taught* and *learn* related to **understand**.

27 Tuesday

Green

**My Thoughts**

Sunday's Second Reading from James says, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." I think this means...

28 Wednesday

Green

**I Pray**

Lord Jesus, please help me **understand** and share how much you love me with all those I meet.

29 Thursday

Red

Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptizer

**Faith Facts**

John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth. How was Elizabeth related to Mary, the mother of Jesus?

30 Friday

Green

**Faith, Hope, Love**

Is there something about your faith you would like to **understand** better? Ask a teacher, a family member or your pastor help you.



In what direction from Capernaum did Jesus and the disciples have to travel to get to Gennesaret where Sunday's Gospel takes place?



And [Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."

Mark 7:14-15

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1

Sunday

Green



Word of the Week

15th Sunday after Pentecost

opened

2

Monday

Green

Labor Day (USA); Labour Day (CAN)

**What's the Word?**

The definition of **open** is...  
 What did Jesus mean when he told the man's ears to "Be **opened**"?

3

Tuesday

Green

**My Thoughts**

I think the best way for me to **open** my ears to listen to Jesus' words is...

4

Wednesday

Green

**I Pray**

Lord Jesus, continue to **open** my ears to your voice and **open** my heart to your love.

5

Thursday

Green

**Faith Facts**

What do these words mean to me?  
 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. —*Isaiah 35:5*

6

Friday

Green

**Faith, Hope, Love**

Make a list of the people in your life who have helped you truly hear God's Word.



According to Sunday's Gospel, Jesus left Tyre and went to Sidon. Next he went back to the Sea of Galilee in Decapolis.

7

Sat.

Green



Notes

[Jesus] put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

Mark 7:33b-34

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9 Monday

Green

**What's the Word?**

The word **amazed** in this Gospel story means...

- a) overwhelmed
- b) disgusted

də'weɪld/ə'weɪld (ə)

10 Tuesday

Green

**My Thoughts**

I have seen excitement sweep through the crowds when...

11 Wednesday

Green

Patriot Day (USA)

**I Pray**

Lord, store up wonder in my heart when I think of what you mean to me.

12 Thursday

Green

**Faith Facts**

Jesus asks each of us to take up our cross in order to follow him. What does that request mean to you?

13 Friday

Green

**Faith, Hope, Love**

What surprising thing about Jesus can you share this weekend? Tell someone what Jesus' cross means to you.



Sunday's Gospel says Jesus and his disciples began a journey through Galilee on the way to Capernaum. What towns did they pass on the way?







16 Monday

Violet

**What's the Word?**  
The definition of **fulfill** is...  
What part of God's plan was **fulfilled** through Mary?

17 Tuesday

Violet

**My Thoughts**  
Mary said yes to God even when she knew it would be hard. I admire Mary because...  
I hope I will follow Mary's example whenever I...

18 Wednesday

Violet

**I Pray**  
Pray Mary's prayer:  
My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
Amen.

19 Thursday

Violet

**Faith Facts**  
What do these words mean to me?  
He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.  
—*Micah 5:4b-5a*

20 Friday

Violet

**Faith, Hope, Love**  
After dinner or at bedtime invite your family to join you in reading some of the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke, Chapters 1 and 2.



In this Gospel story, Mary is visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, is a priest in the temple in Jerusalem.

21 Sat.

Violet

 **Notes**

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## 23 Monday

Violet

**What's the Word?**

Look in the dictionary to learn the different definitions of intelligence, knowledge and **wisdom**.

## 24 Tuesday

Violet

Christmas Eve  
The Vigil of Christmas

**My Thoughts**

I would like people to think of me as a person of **wisdom** because...

## 25 Wednesday

White

Christmas Day  
The Nativity of the Lord

**I Pray**

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to the world to remove all doubt and fear. I am eagerly awaiting your return. Amen.

## 26 Thursday

Red

St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Boxing Day (CAN)

**Faith Facts**

What do these words mean to me?

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. —*Colossians 3:20*

## 27 Friday

White

St. John

**Faith, Hope, Love**

Be an angel and announce Jesus' birth. Be a shepherd by worshipping and leading others to the manger.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with **wisdom**. And the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:39-40

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30 Monday

White

**What's the Word?**

The meaning of the word *favor* in this story is...

31 Tuesday

White

**My Thoughts**

Jesus lived as one of us, with us. To me this means...

1 Wednesday

White

New Year's Day

**I Pray**

Heavenly Father, I ask you to keep the world's children safe from violence, hunger, homelessness, disease and death. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

2 Thursday

White

**Faith Facts**

What do these words mean to me?

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. —*Isaiah 60:1*

3 Friday

White

**Faith, Hope, Love**

The message of the angels to the shepherds was "...on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Help bring peace within your own family in 2025.





LUTHERAN TEACHER EDITION *good news*  
FOR THE 2024-2025 PLANNERS • SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

PP. 26-27: WEEK OF AUGUST 11-17, 2024  
WORD: ABIDES

PP. 28-29: WEEK OF AUGUST 18-24, 2024  
WORD: ELDERS

August 11 was the 12th Sunday after Pentecost.

**THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:**

**JOHN 6:51-69 The Words of Eternal Life**

We hear again Jesus' astounding statement: "The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51). Not surprisingly, the people listening to Jesus ask, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" It's a good question. Jesus doesn't really explain how it happens, but he promises eternal life to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood. Jesus has not yet given his disciples—and us—his body and blood in Holy Communion, but with these statements he looks ahead to that life-giving gift. Those who feed on Jesus by faith, and who by faith receive his body and blood, will live forever.

This is too much for some of Jesus' listeners. It's a "hard saying." Who can understand such things? Again, it is a matter of Spirit-born faith. Jesus says, "It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is no help at all." Only people taught by God the Holy Spirit can believe in Jesus. The flesh—human thoughts and effort—are no help at all. There are some people listening, including Jesus' own disciple Judas, who will reject the teaching of the Spirit. They will refuse to believe. Some people who had been following Jesus until now cannot believe such things. They stop following him.

Jesus asks his twelve disciples if they also want to leave him. Peter replies for them all, with a Spirit-taught answer that is our answer, too: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

**DISCUSSION:** Many people today do not believe in Jesus. Where do they go to look for eternal life? Discuss with your students the way in which people look to other religions or to their own efforts to find God. Talk about the way in which things like money or popularity can become gods. Pray that others will come to know and believe in Jesus, the Bread of life.

**August 15** is a day to remember Mary, the Mother of our Lord. Like the Canaanite woman in the Gospel lesson, Mary responded in faith to the words of the angelic messenger. Called by God to be the Mother of his Son, she said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Mary may have suffered through the questions and doubts of people who did not believe the miracle God accomplished in her life. Yet God worked through her as he put his plan of salvation into action. We give thanks to God for Mary's strong faith and for her firstborn son, the Messiah of Israel and Savior of all nations.

August 18 was the 13th Sunday after Pentecost.

**THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:**

**MARK 7:1-13 Rituals, Rules and Commandments**

In this lesson, we hear the complaints of people who don't believe in Jesus, and who really don't want anyone else to believe in him either. Among those who do not believe are some Pharisees, members of a very strict Jewish religious group, and scribes, men who studied the Jewish laws. In order to make sure they obeyed God's commandments as perfectly as possible, Jewish teachers had invented many detailed laws and traditions to supplement God's commandments. Some of these extra religious duties involved ceremonial washing before eating or after leaving the public marketplace. The scribes and Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples for not washing according to these special rituals.

The problem does not lie with Jesus' disciples, but with the unbelieving and self-important religious leaders. Jesus directs their attention to the Old Testament, to the prophet Isaiah who wrote about this exact problem. The Pharisees and scribes honored God outwardly, with their lips and with their pious words and actions, but inwardly they did not believe—their hearts were far from God. They acted as if their own invented rules were more important than God's commandments!

Jesus uses the Fourth Commandment as an example: "Honor your father and mother." The Pharisees and scribes had found a way around that one. If they wanted to excuse themselves from honoring and caring for their parents, they could just say that whatever help (financial or otherwise) might have been given to their parents had instead been donated as "Corban," that is, an offering to God. Using this ritual trick to deny to their parents the honor due them, the teachers of the law were at the same time denying the honor due to the Word of God. As you will see in the lessons to come, even though some Pharisees come to believe in Jesus, many of them will refuse to give him the honor due to the Son of God.

**ACTIVITY:** Even though it isn't Mother's Day or Father's Day, have your students create cards and write thank you notes to their parents, grandparents or other guardians. Students may take the finished cards home or you may provide envelopes and stamps for mailing

LUTHERAN TEACHER EDITION *good news*  
FOR THE 2024-2025 PLANNERS • SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

PP. 30-31: WEEK OF AUG. 25–31, 2024  
WORD: UNDERSTAND

PP. 32-33: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2024  
WORD: OPENED

August 25 was the 14th Sunday after Pentecost.

**THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
MARK 7:14–23 Clean from the Inside Out**

The scribes and Pharisees invented many rules about being ritually clean and about being “defiled,” or unclean, in the sight of God. Jesus teaches the people the truth about such rules: “There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” The Pharisees had rules about hand washing. (Note: This rule was about ritual washing, done in an effort to make a person spiritually “clean” in the eyes of God; remind students that bathing and hand washing are good things to do in order to protect and care for their bodies and health!) The Pharisees also had detailed rules about which foods should or should not be eaten.

When Jesus’ disciples asked him about his lesson, Jesus replied that food just enters the stomach and then passes out as waste. Eating or not eating certain foods does not make a person clean before God. Things that are unclean come from the inside, from a person’s heart—evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, coveting, pride and all other kinds of sin. Sin starts inside of us, in our thoughts and desires (James 1:14-15). These evil things—these sins—make a person unclean in the sight of God. Following detailed rules cannot make us clean from these sins. Only the blood of Jesus can make us clean: “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

**ACTIVITY:** Invite your pastor to talk with your class about the part of our worship service called the Confession and Absolution. What does it mean to confess our sins? What are the words of absolution? The word *absolve* comes from the Latin word meaning “to loosen” or “to set free” How are we set free from our sins?

On **August 29** we remember the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. He was a prophet who told the people of Israel to repent and prepare to welcome Jesus the Messiah. When John spoke against the sins of King Herod, Herod arrested John and murdered him. The word *martyr* comes from the Greek word for witness. John took up his cross and followed Jesus into death as a faithful witness to his Lord.

September 1 was the 15th Sunday after Pentecost.

**THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
MARK 7:(24–30) 31–37 Ephphatha!**

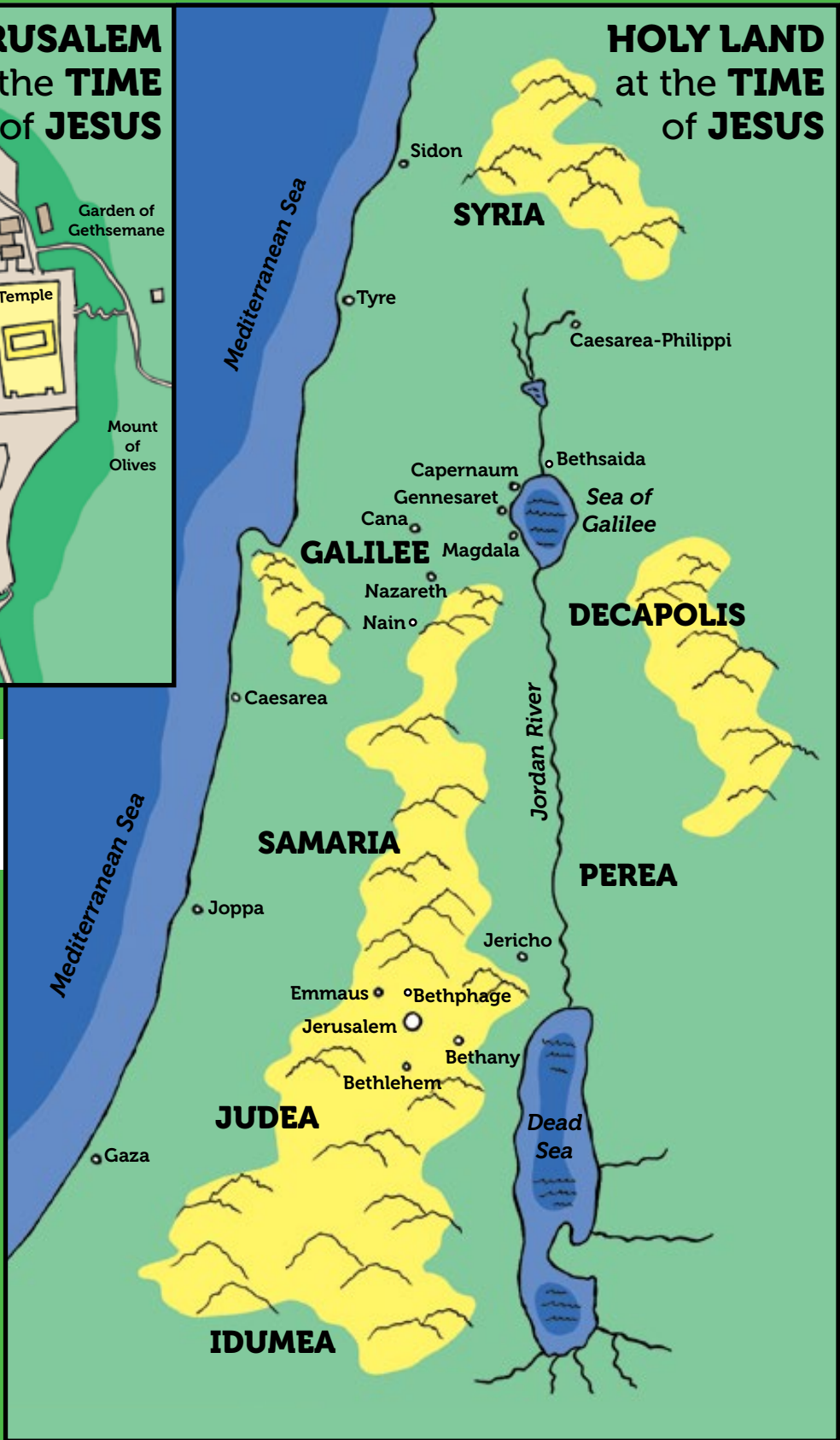
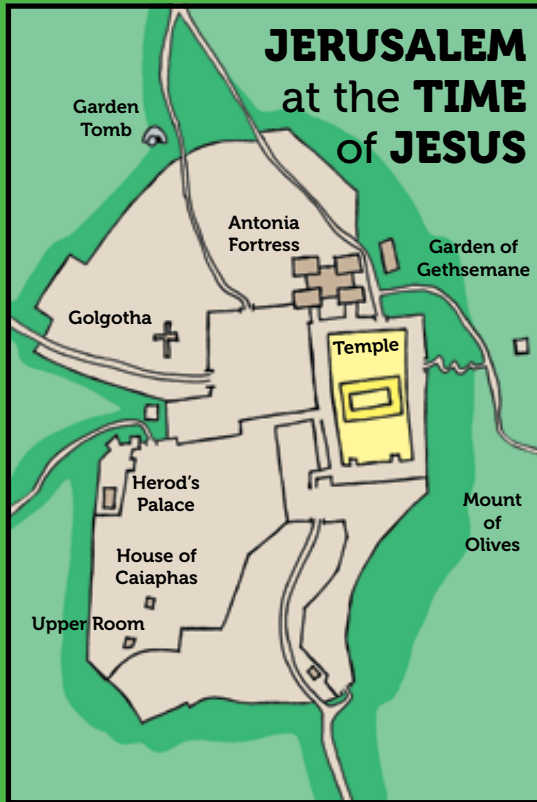
This lesson is about a different kind of uncleanness. Jesus travels through a territory outside of Israel. A woman who lives in the area comes to him to ask for help. An unclean spirit, an evil demon, has possessed her little daughter. This woman is a Gentile, which means she is not Jewish. She probably does not know about all the rules and rituals for being clean, but she has heard of Jesus and she knows he can help her daughter. Jesus, however, answers in a strange way: “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” He is the Messiah of Israel, sent first of all to heal and save “the children,” that is, the people of Israel. Should the Bread of life be thrown instead “to the dogs,” that is, to the people outside of Israel? The woman does not give up. The Spirit has created faith in her heart. She has been “taught by God” and she replies, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” The Bread of life is for her and for her daughter, too. Jesus praises her faith and sends the unclean spirit out of her daughter. Jesus is the Bread of life for Israel and for all people: “For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33).

Jesus continues on through an area called the Decapolis (“ten cities”). He touches the ears and tongue of a man who is deaf and has difficulty speaking, saying as he does so, “Ephphatha,” which means, “Be opened.” The man is healed and the watching crowds are amazed. Jesus warns them not to tell others—it is not yet time for him to be revealed as the Messiah of Israel—but news about him spreads. People are wondering, “Who is this Jesus?”

**NOTE:** The title “Messiah” (“Christ” in the Greek language) is a Hebrew word meaning “anointed one.” It is a title for God’s promised Savior (Psalm 2:2). Just as ancient kings were anointed with olive oil to show that they were set apart for special work (1 Samuel 16:13), at his baptism Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit for his earthly ministry (Mark 1:9-11).

**ACTIVITY:** There may be people in your local community, like the woman or the deaf man in this lesson, with whom you can share the Bread of life and ordinary bread, too! Share the love and compassion of Jesus with them. Working with your congregation or other school classes, have your students collect food, clothing, books and toys to donate to a local shelter or mission.

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**REGIONS**

Bodies of Water

Cities

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