

# Narrative Lectionary Summer 2026 Readings

The Narrative Lectionary is a [four-year cycle of readings](#) that runs from the Sunday after Labor Day to the Day of Pentecost. The rest of the year (First Sunday after Pentecost through the Sunday before Labor Day) consists of preaching series on biblical books or topics that fall outside the narrative cycle.

This summer session is particularly short, containing one series from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If you'd like to replace one with a catechetical series (Ten Commandments, Sacraments, Creeds or Lord's Prayer), please consult the [Narrative FAQ page](#) for past series.

As with the rest of the Narrative Lectionary, worship planners can exercise their evangelical freedom in selecting preaching series that suit the needs of their particular faith community.

Working Preacher will post commentaries (text and podcast) that provide an overview for each series at least one month before the first date for each series. Go to [www.narrativelectionary.org](http://www.narrativelectionary.org), and on the calendar next to the artwork, select the first date in a series to find the commentary and podcast for that preaching series.

## Summer 2026 (15 weeks from May 31 – September 6, 2026)

**Ruth & Esther** (6 weeks): see [Kathryn Schifferdecker's 2018 series](#) on Ruth

- 5/31/2026: Ruth 1:1-22 (Loss and Loyalty)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 5:3-9 (The Beatitudes)*
- 6/7/2026: Ruth 2:1-23 (Gleaning and Hope)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 6:36-38 (Give and It Will Be Given)*
- 6/14/2026: Ruth 3:1-18 (Daring to Act)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 7:7-8 (Ask and You Will Receive)*
- 6/21/2026: Ruth 4:1-22 (New Life)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 1:46-55 (Mary Praises God)*
- 6/28/2026: Esther 4:1-17 (For a Moment Like This)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 9:23-24 (Call to Discipleship)*
- 7/5/2026: Esther 7:1-10, 9:1-2, 20-22, 29-32 (From Sadness to Joy)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 1:68-72 (God Saves Israel)*

**1 & 2 Timothy** (5 weeks): see [Edward Pillar's 7-week series from 2025](#)

- 7/12/2026: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (Have Confidence in the Gospel)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 15:4-7*
- 7/19/2026: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (Take Hold of Eternal Life)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 16:27-30*
- 7/26/2026: 2 Timothy 1:1-14 (Rekindle the Gift of God)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 17:5-6*
- 8/2/2026: 2 Timothy 2:8-15 (Remember Jesus Christ, Raised from the Dead)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 17:16-19*
- 8/9/2026: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:8, 16-18 (The Lord Stood by Me)  
*Accompanying text: Luke 18:6-8*

## Narrative Lectionary Summer 2025

**Ten Commandments** (4 weeks): see [Rolf Jacobson's series from 2018](#)

- 8/16/2026: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 (Nineteen Comes before Twenty)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 22:34-40 (The Great Commandment)*
- 8/23/2026: Exodus 20:3-11 (Tuned into God)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 22:34-40 (The Great Commandment)*
- 8/30/2026: Exodus 20:12-16 (Tuned toward the Neighbor)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 22:34-40 (The Great Commandment)*
- 9/6/2026: Exodus 20:17 (Do Not Covet)  
*Accompanying text: Matthew 22:34-40 (The Great Commandment)*