

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions as a continuation of our community's worship. The following basic pattern could be one way of forming your household's devotions. Adapt as necessary!

GATHERING

✦ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time."

✦ Prayer of the Week

O Lord, the prophet Isaiah said there would come one who would be "God with us." As the time for celebration draws near, continue to speak to us through your Word, that we may see how Jesus is with us. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing you loved doing today. Name one thing you did not love doing.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Joseph was afraid of many things that came with Mary's unexpected pregnancy. God sent an angel in a dream to reassure Joseph. Who has been like an angel to you today?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week, our waiting is over and Christmas is finally here! Not referring to physical presents, what is a gift you have given someone today? What is a gift you have received?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

✦ Dear God, thank you for hope, peace, joy, and love. These are the gifts you give to us. Amen.

CLOSING

✦ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

✦ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "Go forth in love knowing God is with you. Amen."

The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson of Milestones Ministry and used by permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

December 18, 2022

Matthew 1:18-25



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- Matthew 1:21

MEALTIME PRAYER

God is with us when we eat. God is with us when we sleep. God is with us when we play. God is with us when we pray. Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Something to consider as you read: **What are the people doing in each story? What is God doing in each story?**

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	Joseph Trusts God
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-17	The Promise of Immanuel
Tuesday	Jeremiah 33:14-18	The Righteous Branch
Wednesday	Luke 1:5-25	Zechariah and Elizabeth
Thursday	Luke 1:26-38	Gabriel and Mary
Friday	Luke 1:39-56	Mary's Song
Saturday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A Child Has Been Born
Sunday	Luke 2:1-20	Jesus: A Promise for All People

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!**

SERVICE CHALLENGE

SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.

This can be a season of great loneliness for many people. Is there someone in your family, neighborhood, or church whom you could invite to your house for dinner on Christmas Day?