

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

God, your Son, Jesus, was baptized by John at the Jordan River and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Remind us that in the waters of baptism, we, too, have been anointed, washed of our sin, and claimed as your own beloved children. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that you loved doing today. Name one thing you did not love doing.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** John the Baptist preaches about repentance. To repent means to turn towards God and ask for forgiveness. What is one action you did today when you turned away from God's path? When you followed God's path?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Temptation is a big part of next week's story. Jesus was tempted or lured to do the wrong thing by the devil. Were you tempted to do the wrong thing today by someone? What did you do?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Say the following prayer, and invite everyone to add a name at the appropriate time. "Dear God, thank you for loving me. Help me love _____. Amen."

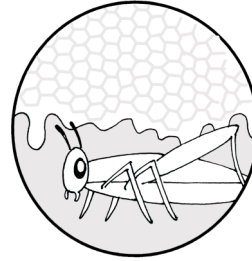
CLOSING

- ✠ 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, "You are a beloved child of God. God is pleased 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/>.

January 8, 2023

Matthew 3:1-17



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

- Matthew 3:17

MEALTIME PRAYER

With happy hearts, we thank you, God, for the food that we eat. With grateful hearts, we thank you for the water we drink. With thankful hearts, we thank you for all that you give us this day. 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 3:1-17	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-8	Prepare the Way of the LORD
Tuesday	Luke 3:7-14	John's Teaching, Part 1
Wednesday	Luke 3:15-20	John's Teaching, Part 2
Thursday	Malachi 3:1-7	A Messenger Is Coming
Friday	Malachi 4:1-6	The Day of the LORD
Saturday	Psalms 2:1-11	You Are My Son
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-17	Temptation in the Wilderness

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.

Look for an opportunity to tell someone that you are pleased with them.