

## 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 words to us are not just blessings and well-wishes. Your words speak a promise to us that when we feel poor in spirit, when we are sad, when we hunger and thirst for goodness, when we feel rejected, when we long for peace and when we are in need of mercy, you are there. You bless us with the promise to be ever-present in the lives of your people. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one way you felt blessed by others today. Name one way you felt rejected.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Using a Bible, review the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-11. Which one did you experience today? Were you a peacekeeper? Did you comfort someone or did someone comfort you?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** How was your day today? Happy or sad? God promises to be with us no matter what. One way we can remember that is to pray the Lord's Prayer. Practice saying it together.

### 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, please continue to bless [each person offers a name] with your love and grace. 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, "**May God bless you from this day forward. 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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

January 22, 2023

Matthew 5:1-20



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."

- Matthew 5:14

### MEALTIME PRAYER

God of light, grace our table with the fullness of your love. Bless our bodies through the food that we eat, and bless our hearts with the fellowship we share in our time together. 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 5:1-20	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Matthew 5:21-26	Teaching on Anger
Tuesday	Matthew 5:27-32	Teaching on Relationships
Wednesday	Matthew 5:33-37	Teaching on Honesty
Thursday	Matthew 5:38-42	Teaching on Nonviolence
Friday	Matthew 5:43-48	Teaching on Loving Enemies
Saturday	Matthew 6:1-6	Genuine Piety
Sunday	Matthew 6:7-21	The Lord's Prayer

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.

We serve out of our compassion and love for others. Name one way this week you can serve someone at school, at work, in your family, or in your neighborhood. Write it down so that you will not forget.