

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

Lord our God, you are our Parent above all others. You have called us to not store up our treasures here on earth but to share what we have with others now. Teach us to seek your ways. Help us to be your light in the world. Encourage us to care for others. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** In what ways were you generous to someone else today? In what ways did you not share?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus says that we should forgive others as we have been forgiven. Did you forgive someone today? Did someone forgive you? What happened?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus tells us to treat others the way you want to be treated. How were you kind to people today? What happened when you were not kind?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

CLOSING

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

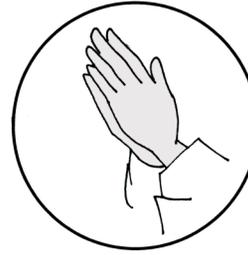
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "God sends you forth to love and forgive others. 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 29, 2023

Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- Matthew 6:21

MEALTIME PRAYER

Gracious God, you provide us with what we need each day. Thank you for the food we eat, for the water we drink, and for the time we get to spend together in faith and fellowship. 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 6:7-21 | The Lord's Prayer |
| Monday | Matthew 6:22-24 | More Teaching |
| Tuesday | Matthew 6:25-30 | Teaching on Possessions |
| Wednesday | Matthew 6:31-34 | Teaching on Worrying |
| Thursday | Luke 15:1-10 | Lost Sheep, Lost Coin |
| Friday | Luke 15:11-24 | The Lost Son |
| Saturday | Luke 15:25-32 | The Other Son |
| Sunday | Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 | Built on a Rock |

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.

One way that Christians have understood Jesus' words about not storing up treasure on earth (Matthew 6:19) is to practice generosity. Make a list of the different ways you can be generous with others this week. Try either as a family or individually to do one thing from your list each day.