

## 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

People need your love, dear God. We live in a time when people are divided and it sometimes seems like no one cares about anyone else. Send us your love to help unite your people. Send us your Spirit to stir within us a caring heart. Send us out to be your love to a world in need. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What made you happy today? What made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** It matters to God and to our community in how we treat other people. Can you name one way at work or school that you responded to someone with kindness? Forgiveness? Love?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus teaches the people about the kingdom of God through a series of parables or small stories. Tell a brief story from your day.

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Hold hands and pray: Dear God, thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ and help us \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.

### CLOSING

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

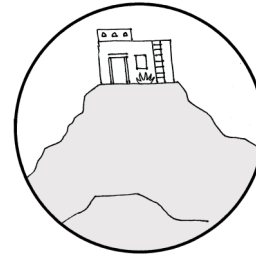
#### ✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross each other's hands or forehead, and say, "God loves you. Go love 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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

February 5, 2023

Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

- Matthew 7:12

### MEALTIME PRAYER

You, O God, are good. You provide food and drink for all people. You surround us with your love and grace. Be with us as we eat together and send us forth from this table to do your good works in the world. 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 7:1-14, 24-29	Built on the Rock
Monday	Matthew 7:15-23	Teaching on False Prophets
Tuesday	Matthew 8:1-13	Healing Leprosy
Wednesday	Matthew 8:14-27	Healing, Following, Calming
Thursday	Matthew 8:28-34	Healing the Demon-Possessed
Friday	Matthew 9:1-8	Forgiving Sins, Healing Bodies
Saturday	Matthew 9:9-17	Tax Collectors and Fasting
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-45	Faith Like a Mustard Seed

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.

Think of someone who needs to feel loved by you this week. Mail a card, bake cookies or spend time to with them this week.