

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, show us how to follow you. Give us the courage and the faith to do the work no matter how hard it may be. Remind us that your beloved Son, Jesus, is always with us and that you are well-pleased with him and that you are well-pleased with us. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What was the best part of today? What was the worst?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** We called to follow Jesus and to listen to him. What is the hardest part in following Jesus today? How can you listen to him better?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Did someone ask you for forgiveness today? Did you forgive them? Did you need forgiveness from someone?

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, grant us strength to follow you. Help me to share your story with _____. 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 on the forehead, and say, "May God give you strength to shine the light of Christ every day. Amen."

February 19, 2023

Matthew 16:24–17:8



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

- Matthew 17:7

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord, at this table, bless us with your grace. At this table, bless us with food to eat and water to drink. At this table, bless us with your presence. 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 16:24–17:8	The Transfiguration
Monday	Matthew 17:9-13	Elijah Has Come
Tuesday	Matthew 17:14-21	A Boy Is Healed
Wednesday	Matthew 18:1-9	The Greatest in the Kingdom
Thursday	Matthew 18:10-14	Caring for the Little Ones
Friday	Matthew 12:22-37	Words and Deeds
Saturday	Matthew 12:38-42	Asking for a Sign
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-35	The Unforgiving Servant

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.

Check out the light fixtures in your home to see if you are using high-efficiency light bulbs. If not, consider making a purchase of a few LED bulbs.