

## 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 God, you have forgiven our sins and continue to forgive us when we come to you in repentance and in confession. Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- 🔗 **Highs & Lows:** Name one person who you think wronged you today. Did you forgive them? Name one person who might think that you wronged them today. Did you say sorry?
- 🔗 **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Jesus encouraged the disciples to forgive people over and over again. Did you experience forgiveness today? Was it hard to forgive someone who did something wrong to you today? Why?
- 🔗 **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** People like it when things are fair. Did you see or experience something that was unfair? 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

✠ Dear God, We confess that we have sinned against you and against one another, both by what we have done and by what we have not done. These are the ways that we have sinned against each other: *[In this time, you can confess to one another ways that you might have been angry with one another or hurt each other, etc.]*. We are sorry, O God. Heal us with your love. Amen.

### CLOSING

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

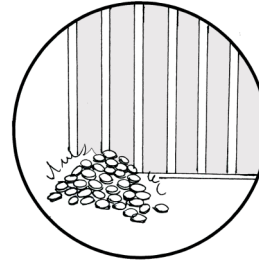
#### ✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say, **You are a forgiven child of God. 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 26, 2023

Matthew 18:15-35



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Then Peter came to him and said, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

- Matthew 18:21-22

### MEALTIME PRAYER

Be with us at this table, Lord. Grace us with your presence, and humble us as we break bread 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 18:15-35 | The Unforgiving Servant      |
| Monday    | Matthew 19:1-12  | Teaching on Divorce          |
| Tuesday   | Matthew 19:13-15 | Welcoming Little Children    |
| Wednesday | Matthew 19:16-22 | A Rich Young Man             |
| Thursday  | Exodus 20:12-16  | Commandments for Life        |
| Friday    | Psalms 1:1-3     | Delight in the Lord's Law    |
| Saturday  | Matthew 19:23-30 | All Is Possible with God     |
| Sunday    | Matthew 20:1-16  | The Laborers in the Vineyard |

*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.

Any time we work on our relationships and make them better, we do a service to our world, especially if those better relationships help us be God's love in the world. Name one person you need to forgive and find time this week to talk with them.