

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

Almighty God, you have gathered us into your mission of love for all nations. As we learn and practice our faith, may we each then be sent out as your visible love in this world. Remind us that you have promised to be with us, even to the end of time. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name something good you heard today. Name something not so good you heard.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** The disciples were told to go out into the world and tell others about Jesus. There are many ways to share the love of Jesus with others. We can tell people with our words and with our actions through kindness and love. Who were you kind to today? Who was kind to you?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** The apostle Peter learns in a dream that there are no food restrictions on what he can eat. Name one food that tasted good today. Name one food that did not taste good.

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, Teach me to _____. Help me _____. 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, "Go in peace. God will be with you always. 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/>.

April 16, 2023

Matthew 28:16-20



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

- Matthew 28:19

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, at our table, be with us as we eat. At our table, be with us as we drink. At our table, be present in our conversation and fellowship. Thank you for everything. 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 28:16-20 | The Great Commission |
| Monday | Acts 1:6-11 | Ascension |
| Tuesday | Acts 1:12-14 | Devoted to Prayer |
| Wednesday | Acts 1:15-20 | A Replacement for Judas, Part 1 |
| Thursday | Acts 1:21-26 | A Replacement for Judas, Part 2 |
| Friday | Acts 2:1-17 | Pentecost |
| Saturday | Acts 4:32-37 | Life in the Young Church |
| Sunday | Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 | Peter's Vision |

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.

Plan a walk around your neighborhood. As you see people, whether you know them or not, say a short prayer silently or aloud for them.