

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

Generous God, because of your grace, we are given hope and peace. You promised to be with us in the joys of our lives as well as in our suffering. Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we can pour ourselves into the work you have called us to do. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What happened today that made you laugh? What happened today that made you sad?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Paul writes that God's love through the Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts so that we can share God's love with others. How have you shared God's love today?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Paul shares that through the death of Jesus we have new life. This means that every day is a fresh start. How did you wake up today? How might that have affected 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

✠ Have each person pray for one thing that they are hopeful about.

CLOSING

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

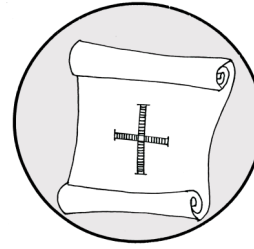
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on their forehead, and say, "May Jesus surround you with life and love. 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/>.

May 14, 2023

Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

But God proves [God's] love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
- Romans 5:8

MEALTIME PRAYER

We are tired, God, so please give us rest. We are grateful, God, so please continue to care for us. We are thankful, God, for all that you give us including this food, water and life. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Something to consider as you read: **What are the people doing in each passage? What is God doing?**

Sunday	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11	Peace and Hope
Monday	Romans 5:12-14	Sin and Death
Tuesday	Romans 5:15-17	The Free Gift of Justification
Wednesday	Romans 5:18-19	Many Will Be Made Righteous
Thursday	Romans 5:20-21	Eternal Life for All
Friday	Genesis 3:1-7	Forbidden Fruit
Saturday	Genesis 3:8-13	The Blame Game
Sunday	Romans 6:1-14	Freedom from Sin

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.

Draw a cross on a piece of paper. Write down in the each four open spaces of the cross one simple way you experience God's love. Ideas include a hug from a friend, worship or being in nature. At some point during the week, try to do each idea written down, and then say a prayer of thanksgiving.