

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, you invite us into your ongoing story to hear your word and to follow your ways. Helps us to have faith in you so that we can share your story with others. Because it is your story of saving grace that has the power to transform our lives. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** How do feel today? Happy? Sad? Both? Explain why.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** The parables teach us that the kingdom of God will grow in abundance from small or hidden things. In what small ways did you see God at work today? A hug from a family member? A wave from a friend?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** From small loaves of bread and fish, Jesus feeds 5,000 people. What did you eat today? How can you give thanks to God for that?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Starting with the smallest person in the room to the tallest, have each person say a prayer of hope. Together, end 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 you grow in faith each day. 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/>.

February 17, 2019

Matthew 13:24-45



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.

- Matthew 13:34

MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you, God, for wheat that grows. Thank you, God, for the yeast that makes the bread rise. And thank you, God, for the mustard seed to season our food. 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 13:24-45	Faith Like a Mustard Seed
Monday	Matthew 9:18-26	Healing a Woman and a Girl
Tuesday	Matthew 9:27-38	Traveling, Teaching, Healing
Wednesday	Matthew 10:1-23	Sending Out the Disciples
Thursday	Matthew 10:32-42	Living in the World
Friday	Matthew 11:1-19	John the Baptist
Saturday	Matthew 12:1-14	Sabbath Controversaries
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-33	Feeding of the 5,000

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.

Buy a packet of seeds and some dirt. Fill several small cups with dirt and plant one seed per cup. Place in direct sunlight. Grow plants until 6 inches tall, and then transfer the plants into pots. Bring a potted plant to someone who you know needs a little encouragement in his or her life right now.