

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, with a word and with thanksgiving, your Son, Jesus, fed the hungry. As you feed and provide for us out of your love, help us. Help us to be your living and loving word in the lives of those who hunger to hear your Good News. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing you shared with someone today. Name one thing you did not share.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** One of the stories in this week's reading includes Jesus walking on the water, the disciples' fears, and Peter testing his faith. Talk about a time today when you were afraid. Who helped you calm your fears? Where is God when you were afraid?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's story, we hear a voice from heaven that says, "Listen to [Jesus]." Sometimes it is easy to listen, and sometimes it is hard. What did you listen to today?

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, please give those who hunger food eat and those who have no bed a place to sleep. Amen.

CLOSING

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

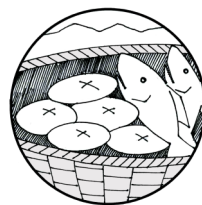
✚ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say, "May the fullness of God's love 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/>.

February 24, 2019

Matthew 14:13-33



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

- Matthew 14:27

MEALTIME PRAYER

You broke bread, dear God, to feed your people. Thank you for the gifts of food we eat and the gift of water we drink. May you continue to feed and provide your people with daily bread. 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 14:13-33	Feeding of the 5,000
Monday	Matthew 15:1-20	A Fight Over Food
Tuesday	Matthew 15:21-28	A Determined Mother
Wednesday	Matthew 15:29-39	Feeding the Crowds, Again
Thursday	Matthew 16:1-12	The Disciples Miss the Point
Friday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's Statement of Faith
Saturday	Matthew 16:21-23	Get Behind Me, Satan!
Sunday	Matthew 16:24—17:8	The Transfiguration

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.

Jesus feeds the crowd with five loaves of bread and two fish. While at the supermarket, pick up a can of tuna and some crackers to donate to your local food shelf.