

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

Merciful God, we need only to tune into the news of our world to see that it is a dangerous place for many. Remind us that even where lives are in danger, you are there working life and hope. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that made you happy today. Name one thing that made you afraid today.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Joseph and Mary had to run away to Egypt to keep baby Jesus safe. Can you name one way that someone who cares for you kept you safe today?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In the story next week, a voice from heaven said about Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." What did you do today that made another person happy?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

- ✠ Write three prayers together—one for hope, one for peace, and one for love. Read the written prayers together.

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, "Remember you are a 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). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

January 6, 2019

Matthew 2:1-23



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

- Matthew 2:9

MEALTIME PRAYER

Gracious God, you are indeed the giver of all good gifts. For the gifts of food, family, and your love, we thank you. 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 2:1-23	Flight to Egypt
Monday	Micah 5:1-5a	A Ruler from Bethlehem
Tuesday	Hosea 11:1-9	Out of Egypt
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:15-25	Comfort for Weeping Rachel
Thursday	Isaiah 49:1-7	A Light to the Nations
Friday	Luke 2:21-40	Baby Jesus in the Temple
Saturday	Luke 2:41-52	The Boy Jesus in the Temple
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-17	Jesus and John Baptist

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.

Drop off a gift to your local police station or fire department. Gift options include a plate of homemade cookies, a letter of thanks, fruit, or chocolate.