

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 of all, we are constantly bombarded with information and ideas, and sometimes it is hard to know what is right or real. Open our eyes, O God, to discern which messages are of you and those that might lead us astray. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs and Lows:** What has made you feel at peace today? Where have you felt conflict?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** This week, the first Christians were have disagreements. What is a disagreement (or fight) that you had today? Did it get resolved? How?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's reading, Paul calls out the apostle Peter for bowing to peer pressure. What peer pressure have you felt today (big or small)? What happened?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✚ Pray silently or out loud for anyone with whom you have conflict.

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 the sign of the cross on each other's ears and say, "You are a beloved 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/>.

MAY 18, 2025

Acts 15:1-18



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.

— Acts 15:11

MEALTIME PRAYER

Loving and eternal God, sometimes it is hard to walk on our journeys with you. Strengthen us with this food and help us to be bold in our faith like Paul, so that all will know who you are. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Listen as you read: **What do you hear God saying in each of these stories?**

Sunday	Acts 15:1-18	The First Church Council
Monday	Acts 13:1-12	Paul and Barnabas Commissioned
Tuesday	Acts 14:8-20	Reception of Paul and Barnabas
Wednesday	Acts 15:22-35	The Council's Letter
Thursday	Acts 16:11-15	The Conversion of Lydia
Friday	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens
Saturday	Acts 22:6-21	Paul Sent to the Gentiles
Sunday	Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21	Saved by Faith

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.

If you are having disagreements within your household or with friends, or with family members, think about how you can work to resolve them. Then act on that. With some conflicts, praying for the one you disagree with is the best first step!