

SHARING GOD’S STORY @ HOME

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, “Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?”

Saul asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

“I am Jesus, whom you are harassing,” came the reply. 6 “Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do.” ~Acts 9:3-6 (CEB)

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Transforming God, you are redeeming the world and making all things new, including me, your beloved child. And you call me to join you in the redeeming work of bringing healing and restoration to a broken world. Open my heart to the transforming work you desire to do in me so I may demonstrate your love and care in a broken and hurting world. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What do you think is the point of each story?**

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| SUNDAY | Acts 9:1-31 | Saul’s Encounter with Jesus |
| MONDAY | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Paul on the Resurrection 1 |
| TUESDAY | 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 | Paul on the Resurrection 2 |
| WEDNESDAY | 1 Corinthians 15:29-44a | Paul on the Resurrection 3 |
| THURSDAY | 1 Corinthians 15:44b-58 | Paul on the Resurrection 4 |
| FRIDAY | 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Tim 4:7b-9; 2 Tim 2:3-7 | Training for God’s Power |
| SATURDAY | Romans 8:31-39 | Nothing Separates Us |
| SUNDAY | Matthew 4:17; Luke 4:43, 9:22, 13:32 | Jesus’ Life, Suffering, Death & Resurrection |

If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children’s Bible you use may not include the 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.

Where might God be calling you to use your gifts and skills to serve? Who might you invite to serve with you if you are already serving somewhere?

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**
Transforming God, you are redeeming the world and making all things new, including me, your beloved child. And you call me to join you in the redeeming work of bringing healing and restoration to a broken world. Open my mind and heart to the transforming work you desire to do in me so I may demonstrate your love and care in a broken and hurting world. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing you saw today that made you happy. Name one thing you saw today that made you sad.
- **Thinking about This Week’s Story:** Paul’s transformation and ours is not a “do-it-yourself” project BUT a “do-it with God” process. How do you see that in Paul’s life and yours?
- **Getting Ready for Next Week’s Story:** After 6 weeks, we put it all together by focusing on how Jesus’ mission was to bring the reign of God to our lives and world, which he completed by the power of his resurrection and victory over sin and death.

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

- Hold each other’s hands. Pray together either silently or aloud, and 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 each other’s hands or forehead, and say, “**May you ‘work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity.’**”

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 with permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org).

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