

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

O Lord, even in her uncertainty and fear, Esther acted and brought life to her people. Even when we are uncertain about your presence in our lives, remind us to act and bring life to others, as you have acted and brought us life in Jesus, whose birth we wait to celebrate. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one strong thing you did today. Name one thing you did today that was not so strong.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Esther was a strong leader for her community. She saved her people, the Israelites, from destruction. Who is a strong leader that you met today? A teacher? A pastor? A friend? What makes their leadership strong?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Isaiah announces to the people that there will be a new servant. God promises that this new servant will bring justice and peace for all. Name one way that you kept the peace 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

✠ Sit still together for one minute. During that one minute, pray silently. At the end of one minute, say together, "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 God be with you at this time and on this 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/>.

December 4, 2022

Esther 4:1-17



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Who knows? Perhaps you came to royal dignity for such a time as this."

- Esther 4:14

MEALTIME PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, for such a time as this. The time we get to be in faith together. The time spent with family and friends. This time around the table to eat, drink, and be merry. 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	Esther 4:1-17	Esther Leads
Monday	Daniel 3:1-12	The Fiery Furnace, Part 1
Tuesday	Daniel 3:13-30	The Fiery Furnace, Part 2
Wednesday	Daniel 5:1-12	The Writing on the Wall, Part 1
Thursday	Daniel 5:13-31	The Writing on the Wall, Part 2
Friday	Daniel 6:1-13	The Lions' Den, Part 1
Saturday	Daniel 6:14-28	The Lions' Den, Part 2
Sunday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Savior Is Coming

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.

Next time you are at the store, pick up a package of thick warm socks. Drop them off at the homeless shelter or nursing home.