

## SHARING GOD'S STORY @ HOME

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK** – <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Gracious and loving God,  
In this season of Advent, we long for your peace—  
A peace that stills anxious hearts, calms weary minds,  
And binds us together in your perfect love.

As we wait for the coming of Christ,  
Help us to trust in your promise of peace.  
Let it flow through us like a gentle river,  
Reconciling broken relationships,  
Healing wounds, and restoring hope.

May we carry your peace into a restless world,  
So that in every word and action,  
We may reflect the Prince of Peace,  
Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Luke 2:1-20	<b>THURSDAY</b>	Isaiah 52:7-12
<b>MONDAY</b>	Luke 24:36-50	<b>FRIDAY</b>	Philippians 4:1-9
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Isaiah 32:9-20	<b>SATURDAY</b>	John 14:27-31
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Luke 2:1-20	<b>SUNDAY</b>	Luke 2:21-38

*\*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that your children's Bible 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.*

Identify a relationship within your family or close circle that needs healing. Take a step toward reconciliation—through a conversation, a letter, or an act of kindness.

Create a “peace corner” at home with a candle or scripture as a reminder of Christ's peace.

*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**

### 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:** True peace can seem distant in a chaotic season. Drawing from Luke 2:13-14 and George Bailey's journey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, we find peace isn't about perfect circumstances but about living according to God's purpose. George's sacrifices brought peace to his community, others, and himself—mirroring the peace Christ brings. This Advent, the Prince of Peace invites us to embrace wholeness and restoration, transforming our lives and the world.

**Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** The Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service, a powerful tradition rooted in John Wesley's historic practice of recommitting ourselves to God. This sacred service allows us to reflect, repent, and renew our covenant relationship with God for the coming year. You can expect scripture, reflection, self-examination, the Covenant Prayer, and a call to commitment.

### 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 on each other's hands or forehead, and say, “May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, fill your heart, calm your spirit, and guide your steps as you await His coming.”*

*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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)).*

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