

SHARING GOD’S STORY @ HOME

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK – But I have trusted in your faithful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. Yes, I will sing to the Lord because he has been good to me. ~Psalm 13:5-6 CEB

PRAYER OF THE WEEK - God of compassion, you do not ask us to hide our pain, but to name it in your presence. You invite us to come weary, honest, broken—and you promise rest. Help us speak aloud what hurts and help us create room for others to do the same. In lament, meet us with your healing grace. In Christ’s name, 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	Psalm 13	THURSDAY	Psalm 42
MONDAY	Matthew 11:28-30	FRIDAY	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
TUESDAY	Lamentations 3:19-26	SATURDAY	Psalm 6
WEDNESDAY	Job 3:1-26	SUNDAY	Ephesians 1:7-8

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.

This week, become a companion in someone else’s pain. Your quiet, compassionate presence may be the healing someone needs.

Ideas for Action:

- Make time to *really listen* to someone without interrupting or fixing.
- Offer a trusted friend or church member a safe space to talk. Say, “If you ever need to talk, I’m here.”
- Visit someone who’s grieving or struggling. Don’t worry about the perfect words—just show up.

Let our church be a place where nothing human is off-limits—and where God’s healing love meets every wound

Think about devotions as a continuation of our 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:** We’ll explore the theme “*Anything Mentionable Is Manageable*,” drawing from Matthew 11:28–30 and Psalms of lament. We’ll reflect on how naming our pain—just as scripture teaches—can be an act of courageous faith and a pathway to healing. Through the gift of lament, we find that God meets us in our vulnerability with grace and rest.
- **Getting Ready for Next Week’s Story:** Forgiveness isn’t a one-time act—it’s a lifelong lesson in grace, humility, and love. Next Sunday, we’ll explore what it means to be students in the school of forgiveness, learning to release the weight of resentment and embrace the freedom of grace. Grounded in the teachings of Jesus and the transforming power of sanctifying love, we’ll reflect on how forgiveness heals us, shapes us, and leads us closer to Christ.

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 you find the courage to name what aches within you, trusting that God hears every cry and holds every tear. As you walk the path of honest lament, may grace meet you there, bringing rest, healing, and peace for your soul. 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 with permission from Vibrant Faith Ministries, Bloomington, MN (www.vibrantfaith.org).

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