

SHARING GOD’S STORY @ HOME

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!

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

³³They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread. ~Luke 24:13-35 (CEB)

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Redeeming, resurrected Lord, we know disappointments are part of life, but sometimes, they can diminish our hope, making it difficult to see or feel your presence. Renew our spirits with the power of resurrection hope so that, like the disciples, we may boldly proclaim your resurrection power to redeem and heal. 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	Luke 24:13-35	The Emmaus Road
MONDAY	Luke 24:36-49	Jesus Appears Again
TUESDAY	Acts 4:13-22	Peter & John Accused
WEDNESDAY	Acts 4:32-37	The Community of Believers
THURSDAY	Acts 7:51-8:1a	The Stoning of Stephen
FRIDAY	Acts 8:1b-8:4	The Church Scatters
SATURDAY	Acts 9:1-19a	Jesus Appears to Saul
SUNDAY	Acts 9:19b-31	Saul Goes to Jerusalem

*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.

Who may need you to walk with them emotionally, spiritually, or physically?

GATHERING

- Light a candle to help you focus this time as “God time.”

• Prayer of the Week

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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:** Disappointment can cause hope to fade, and when hope fades, so does our capacity to recognize God’s presence with us. Take time this week to watch for God’s presence in the regular, ordinary parts of your day.
- **Getting Ready for Next Week’s Story:** This Sunday, we hear the story of Saul, who became Paul. He thought he was on a mission from God to rid the world of people following Jesus. In the meantime, Jesus found him and loved him into becoming a follower, too. No one is outside of God’s love!

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

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).