



**Sharing
GOD'S STORY
@ home**

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ~John 20:24-28 (CEB)

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Living Lord, you call us to encourage and undergird one another, including times of doubt. Please help me to release any shame or guilt for holding doubts and embrace the support of my community so that my doubt can become a pathway to a more profound belief in who you are. Amen

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

MONDAY	Matthew 10:3	The Calling of the Disciples
TUESDAY	Mark 3:18	The Calling of the Disciples
WEDNESDAY	Luke 6:12-16	The Calling of the Disciples
THURSDAY	John 11:1-16	The Raising of Lazarus
FRIDAY	John 14:1-8	Jesus Teaches on His Death
SATURDAY	Acts 1:1-14	Jesus' Ascension
SUNDAY	John 20:24-31	Jesus Appears Again

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.

Find a time this week to encourage someone in their faith, letting them know it is okay not to be 100% sure of everything. We can all be OK with the mystery of faith.

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**

Living Lord, you call us to encourage and undergird one another, including times of doubt. Please help me to release any shame or guilt for holding doubts and embrace the support of my community so that my doubt can become a pathway to a more profound belief in who you are. 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:** It is okay not to have all the details about God and our faith. We will never know some things until we see Jesus face to face. Don't feel you must check your brain at the church's door. God created us to learn, investigate, and decide for ourselves.
- **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week's story is about two individuals instead of one. Jesus does some undercover work, learning what these men thought about the crucifixion in Jerusalem, and then reveals himself to them at just the right time.

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).