

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions is 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

God of Abraham, you give the best gifts. In her old age, Sarah laughs out loud at the birth announcement of her son Isaac. But you are the God of last laughs. Even when all hope is lost, still you are able to create life. Give us always that hope and joy. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing you saw today that made you laugh out loud? What is one thing you saw that was not so funny?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** In addition to Sarah's laughter, Abraham and Sarah provide hospitality to their visitors. They washed their feet, provided water for them to drink, and a meal to eat. Who was hospitable to you today? What kindness did they show you?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Sometimes when a person has a hard decision to make, he/she will talk about "wrestling" with that decision. Did you have to wrestle with any hard decisions today? What were the decisions you had to make?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Read aloud from the DAILY BIBLE READING from the front. What do you want to remember from this reading?

PRAY TOGETHER

- ✠ Have each person fill in the blank of this prayer: Dear God, thank you for laughter especially when [name a time when you laughed really hard]. Laughter is a gift. Amen.

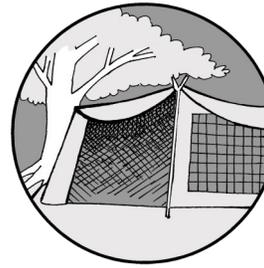
CLOSING

- ✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.
- ✠ **Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share**
Mark one another with the sign of the cross on each other's forehead, and say, "May God use you to bring laughter, joy, and hope into someone's life. 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/>.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."

- Genesis 21:6

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of love, you give us with food to eat, water to drink, and provide us with family and friends with which to laugh and love. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God and the people doing in each story?***

Sunday	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	God Gives the Promised Child
Monday	Genesis 25:19-28	Two Sons for Isaac and Rebekah
Tuesday	Genesis 25:29-34	Jacob Buys a Birthright
Wednesday	Genesis 27:1-17	A Scheming Son and Mother
Thursday	Genesis 27:18-29	The Scheme Succeeds
Friday	Genesis 27:30-41	Esau's Lost Blessing
Saturday	Genesis 32:1-8	Jacob Prepares to See Esau
Sunday	Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30	Jacob Wrestles

*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.

Show hospitality to a new friend, neighbor, or co-worker by inviting them over one evening for dinner with your family.