

## 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 Hope —Again and again, your word describes your relationship with us as a shepherd who loves, cares for, guides, and protects God's sheep. Even when we have lost our way, remind us again and again that you are our shepherd, and we are your sheep. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Who brought you comfort today? Who brought you discomfort today?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Isaiah's message speaks of God as a shepherd who feeds the flock and gathers the lambs in God's arms and gently leads them. Who acted like a shepherd for you today? What did they do?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** After being gone all day at work, school, or with errands, what do you look forward to doing when you get home each day?

### 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 name one thing that makes them scared or nervous. Pray together that God would comfort their hearts.

### 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 hands or forehead, and say, "You are a lamb of God's own flock. God cares for you so you can go and care for others. Amen."

DECEMBER 8, 2019

Isaiah 40:1-11



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."  
- Isaiah 40:5

### MEALTIME PRAYER

As we gather around the table, give us our daily bread, God. Fill our hearts with love and our bodies with food. Give us peace as we dine and drink together. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort, Comfort My People
Monday	Isaiah 40:25-31	Eagles' Wings
Tuesday	Isaiah 49:1-6	The Servant's Mission
Wednesday	Isaiah 50:4-9	Help Comes from God
Thursday	Isaiah 53:1-9	A Suffering Servant
Friday	Isaiah 55:1-5	Come to the Waters
Saturday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's Word Accomplishes Its Purpose
Sunday	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13	Returning from Exile

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.

As a household, create a list of your favorite comfort foods. Decide on two things to donate to a local food shelf.