

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

Gracious God, how you love us. You remind us that it is what comes out from our hearts that matters. Help us. Where there is hate, help us to love. Where there is grief, helps us to care. Where there is sadness, help us give hope. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that made you smile today. Name one thing that made you frown.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Jesus reminded God's people that what really matters in life is how they treated one another. How did you treat others today? With kindness? How did others treat you?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** A voice from heaven tells the disciples that Jesus is the beloved Son and that they should listen to him. How have you listened to Jesus today, loving others? How have you ignored God's command to 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

✠ Let each person pick a country on a map, and together pray for different places around the world. End together 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

Mark one another with the sign of the cross on each other's hands or forehead, and say, "May you share the peace of Christ with your neighbors today. 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/>.

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Mark 7:1-23



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

- Mark 7:15

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, you encourage us to eat from the bounty of the earth. Bless this food and this drink to the nourishment of our bodies, so that we may be about your work in the world. 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	Mark 7:14-23	What Makes You Unclean
Monday	Mark 7:24-30	A Courageous Mother
Tuesday	Mark 7:31-37	Jesus Brings Hearing
Wednesday	Mark 8:1-13	More Miraculous Meals
Thursday	Mark 8:14-21	Yeast of the Pharisees
Friday	Mark 8:22-26	Healing a Blind Man
Saturday	Mark 8:27-38	A Misunderstood Messiah
Sunday	Mark 9:1-8	Transfiguration

*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.

This week when you go shopping, pick up a few extra cans of food. Donate the food to your local food shelf.