

DEVOTIONS

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

God, you have blessed us with your presence. Be with us and encourage us to use what you have given us to serve you and to serve our neighbors. With whatever we have to offer, we pray it is used wisely and for your benefit. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What's the best thing that happened with your family today? What was one thing that did not go well?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Read the Scripture verse for the week. It tells us that God trusts us and has put us in charge of many things. How were you a trustworthy follower of Jesus today? What did you help take care today that God has given you?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** This story explains that when we love and help people in need, we are indeed loving and helping Jesus. How did you help or love someone today?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Dear God, Help us to remember all the good things we have. Help us to remember to use our gifts and talents to serve you. Help us to remember to be your trustworthy servants. 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

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say: **God loves you and will with you always. 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/>.

March 31, 2019

Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30]



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.

- Matthew 25:23

MEALTIME PRAYER

O God, we thank you for the gift of food and drink. We thank you for how you continue to provide for us. We thank you for the gift of family and friends. We ask that you continue to provide for others who are in need of all these things. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Something to consider as you read: **What are the people doing in each story? What is God doing in each story?**

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|-----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30] | The Parable of the Talents |
| Monday | Matthew 22:41-46 | The Son of David |
| Tuesday | Psalms 110:1-7 | A Psalm of David |
| Wednesday | Matthew 23:1-12 | Humbled and Exalted |
| Thursday | Matthew 23:13-26 | Woes |
| Friday | Matthew 23:27-36 | And More Woes |
| Saturday | Matthew 23:37-39 | Jerusalem! Jerusalem! |
| Sunday | Matthew 25:31-46 | When Did We See You? |

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.

Make a list of each person's talents in the household that could be used at church. Ideas could include singing, playing an instrument, ushering, greeting, or serving communion. Contact your church office on how you might use your talents one Sunday.