

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

Merciful Father, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have broken into our world and fill our hearts with the good news of your love for us. This news of your love is like a seed planted in the soil, ready to burst forth in life. Help our hearts to be good soil, ready to receive, to believe, and to trust in that love no matter what. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one way you felt loved today. Name one way you felt rejected.

❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** In Romans 1:8-12, Paul tells the Christians in Rome that he prays for them; that he gives thanks to God for them; and that he is eager to visit them so that they both might be encouraged by one another's faith. For whom would you like to give thanks today?

❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Because of God's grace, we receive hope and peace. Can you think of one way the world seemed like a hopeful and peaceful place 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

✦ Have each person say a prayer, thanking God for the gift of salvation.

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: **May you trust in God's love for you in Jesus. 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/>.

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Romans 1:1-17



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- Romans 1:6

MEALTIME PRAYER

Grace our table with your loving presence, dear God. May we eat together with humble hearts and attitudes knowing that you are with us. 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?**

Sunday	Romans 1:1-17	Called to be Saints
Monday	Romans 1:18-25	Sinful Humanity
Tuesday	Romans 2:1-4	Do Not Judge
Wednesday	Romans 3:21-26	Made Right with God
Thursday	Romans 3:27-31	Justified by Faith
Friday	Romans 4:1-5	The Example of Abraham
Saturday	Romans 4:13-17	Abraham's Faith
Sunday	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11	Peace and Hope

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.

Pick someone you have not heard from in a long time. Send them a text, email, or letter, letting them know that you are thinking of them.