



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Return to the LORD, your God, for [God] is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

—Joel 2:13

MEALTIME PRAYER

Fill our bodies with your good food, O God. Fill our hearts with your love, O God. Fill our minds with your grace and mercy, O God. Let us come together hungry for it all. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

A question to ponder as you read: How is God's word a source of hope in each of these stories?

Sunday	Joel 2:12-13, 28-29	Joel's Prophecy of Hope
Monday	Psalms 51:1-12	Prayer for Cleansing
Tuesday	Acts 2:14-21	Peter Addresses the Crowd
Wednesday	Joel 3:1-2a, 17-18	God Will Restore Judah
Thursday	Amos 9:11-15	Restoration of David's Kingdom
Friday	Micah 5:2-4	The Ruler of Bethlehem
Saturday	Isaiah 40:1-5	God's People are Comforted
Sunday	Isaiah 61:1-11	Isaiah's Prophecy of 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.

On a piece of paper, write a quick message of hope and love to each person in your family this week. Hide it in their lunch box, under their pillow, or in their wallet.

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

Dear God, you alone are the source of all things wonderful. Your love fills our hearts. Your joy delights our spirits. Your hope calms our anger, and your Son saves us all. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is something that made you happy today? What is something that made you angry?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** The prophet, Joel, reminds the people to repent, to say "sorry" for the mistakes they have made, and God promises to forgive. What have you done today that you should ask forgiveness for? Who should you forgive?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Isaiah's words bring hope and comfort to a people who were in captivity, and now resettling in their homeland. When did you feel stuck today? When did you feel free?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Go in a circle and pray for the person on your left. Think of their need for forgiveness from you.

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 be filled with God's Spirit. 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/>.