



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

—Luke 2:49

MEALTIME PRAYER

God the Provider, you gather your hungry people and feed us with your grace and forgiveness. You shape us in your love so that we can be family to one another. You send us into the world to reach out to others with kindness. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

A question to ask as you read: Is there anything you do not understand about each passage?

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	Boy Jesus at the Temple
Monday	Genesis 17:19-24	Sign of the Covenant
Tuesday	Exodus 13:1-2	Consecration of Firstborn
Wednesday	Leviticus 26:3-6	God Will Grant Peace
Thursday	Leviticus 26:7-13	The Covenant Revealed
Friday	Malachi 4:4-6	Advice for the Coming of the Lord
Saturday	Isaiah 62:10-12	Build up a Highway
Sunday	Luke 3:1-22	Jesus and John the Baptist

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.

Donate a new or gently used toy to your church nursery.

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**

Beloved Teacher, you love us as you loved your Son, Jesus. As Jesus desired to spend time in your house and learn about you, so too give us the desire to devote time to learn about you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- 🔗 **Highs and Lows:** Name one thing that went well today. Name one thing that did not go well.
- 🔗 **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Jesus stayed behind to learn from the teachers at the temple. What is one thing you learned today, on any subject?
- 🔗 **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** John the Baptist tells the people to turn around and live God's way. What is one good or helpful thing you did today? What is one thing you should have done, but did not (or did, but should not have done)?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Hold hands and form a circle. One person begins the prayer, and when they are done then they squeeze the hand of the next person. Continue until each person has had a chance to pray.

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, "Go and share God's love. 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/>.