



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

—Luke 15:32

MEALTIME PRAYER

We give you thanks, God, for welcoming us back into your love and grace with an open and joyful heart. May we share this food and fellowship with open and joyful hearts as well. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Listen as you read: What do you hear God saying in each of these stories?

Sunday	Luke 15:1-32	The Lost Is Found
Monday	Psalms 119:169-176	A Lost Sheep
Tuesday	1 Samuel 16:6-13	A Keeper of Sheep
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-9	Joseph and His Brothers
Thursday	Genesis 45:21-28	Joseph Returned to His Father
Friday	Exodus 2:1-10	Moses Returned to His Mother
Saturday	John 4:46-54	A Man's Son is Returned
Sunday	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus

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.

Create care kits for people who are homeless and store them in your (or your family's) car. Consider including personal hygiene items, gloves, or a small gift card. Be sure to also feed their souls by keeping them on your prayer list.

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, in your great love for us, you pursue us when we walk away and rejoice when we return. Help us realize when we have wandered, and bring us back to you.
Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs and Lows:** Our God sometimes blesses us in unexpected ways. In what ways has God blessed you today in a way that you did not expect? Where could you not see any blessings?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** In this week's readings, there is much rejoicing when what was lost is found. What has brought you joy today? What has brought you sadness or frustration?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's reading, a rich man ignores Lazarus' obvious needs without offering to share his abundance with him. When have you ignored someone's need today? How can you do better in the future?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Invite everyone get a partner and pray for each other. Ask God to help them in reconciling something in their lives.

CLOSING

✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.

✠ **Rituals and Traditions: A Blessing to Share**

Mark the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or hands and say, "God rejoices in you."

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/>.