



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

—Acts 8:35

MEALTIME PRAYER

Loving God, it is you who created the whole world and every creature in it. In these turbulent times, let us not forget that we are all children of God. Nourish us with this food and with your Spirit. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Acts 8:26-39	Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian
Monday	Acts 9:1-19	The Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Acts 9:20-31	Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem
Wednesday	Acts 9:36-43	Paul and Tabitha
Thursday	Acts 10:34-48	Gentiles Hear the Good News
Friday	Acts 11:19-30	The Church in Antioch
Saturday	Acts 12:6-19	Peter Delivered from Prison
Sunday	Acts 15:1-18	The First Church Council

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.

Research services in your area that work with people who are homeless. What is one thing that you can do to help one of those services? How can pray for them?

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

Creator of all, open our hearts and minds to learn new things. Give us the courage and openness to be willing to change as you lead us—all to your glory! Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs and Lows:** What is something that made you feel calm today? What made you feel stressed?
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** In this week's reading, the man from Ethiopia was excited to learn something new about God. What was something that you learned today?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's Scripture, the early church leaders argued. What was an argument or disagreement you had today? How did you resolve it?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Spend a moment to think about who you can show God's love to. Pray for them and for one another to encourage everyone to take initiative this week.

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, "Follow God's call."

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/>.