

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

O Lord, like Habakkuk, we might look around at the violence and injustice in our world and ask, "Will you not save?" You promised him that there would come a day when all things would be made right. In this season of waiting, give us the eyes to see your promises of hope and peace at work in the world. Amen

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that you experienced that felt hopeful today. Name one thing that you experienced that felt hopeless.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** In Habakkuk 2:2-4, God tells Habakkuk to wait. Advent is the season of waiting for the celebration of Christmas. Did you have to wait for someone or something today? Was it hard or easy to wait? Why?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** God is not mentioned once in the story of Esther, but God has always been seen as part of the story. Sometimes we feel the presence of God in what we are doing, and sometimes we do not. How did you experience the presence of God in your life 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

✠ Dear God, we hope for _____. We wait for _____. We thank you for _____. Amen.

CLOSING

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

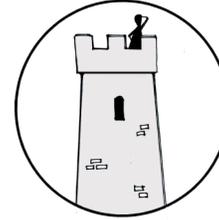
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say, "Rejoice in the Lord. Exult in the God of your salvation. 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/>.

December 2, 2018

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by faith.

- Habakkuk 2:4

MEALTIME PRAYER

With this food and drink, bless our bodies to do your work, O God. With this food and drink, restore our strength for the days ahead. With this food and drink, be present with us as we enjoy our time together around this meal. 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	Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19	Waiting and Watching
Monday	Psalm 137:1-6	In a Foreign Land
Tuesday	Esther 1:1-9	The Glory of a Foreign King
Wednesday	Esther 1:10-22	Vashti's Refusal
Thursday	Esther 2:1-11	Esther and Mordecai
Friday	Esther 2:12-23	Savvy Esther's Success
Saturday	Esther 3:1-15	The Anger of Haman
Sunday	Esther 4:1-17	Esther Leads

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.

In December, many people start to decorate their home for Christmas. How might each person in your family pitch in and help?