

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, you describe your kingdom as a joy-filled, expectant wedding celebration to which we have been invited. We confess to you that sometimes we are so distracted by our everyday lives that we miss the invitation and miss the joy. Do not give up on us. Invite us again and again, that we might not miss out on the joy you offer us. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What was the most joyful part of your day? What happened that was not a joy-filled moment?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Part of the parable that Jesus tells is about missed opportunities of God's joy. How did you experience God's joy today? In what way might you have missed it?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus tells a story about how a master provides talents or money to his servants. Some invest the money wisely and some invest it poorly. How have you spent your time or money 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 [point up], You invite each of us [point to each person] to your banquet. Fill us with your joy and love. Amen.

CLOSING

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

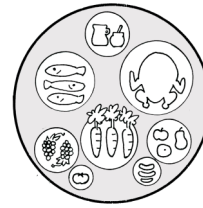
✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

With permission, mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say: **May you know that you are included at the table of God's banquet of love and joy. 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/>.

March 24, 2019

Matthew 22:1-14



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

For many are called, but few are chosen.

- Matthew 22:14

MEALTIME PRAYER

You call us to the table, O God, to eat what you have provided. You beckon us to come and dine. Be present at our table and give us your peace. 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	Matthew 22:1-14	The Wedding Banquet
Monday	Matthew 22:15-22	It's a Trap!
Tuesday	Matthew 22:22-33	The Sadducees' Question
Wednesday	Exodus 3:1-6	The God of Your Father
Thursday	Matthew 22:34-40	The Greatest Commandment
Friday	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	Hear, O Israel
Saturday	Leviticus 19:17-18	Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13 [or 25:14-30]	The Parable of the Talents

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.

If Jesus' parable about an invitation to a wedding party is in part about an invitation to joy, who do you know that is particularly without joy right now? What could you do this week to bring him or her a little joy? Write a letter? Bake cookies and visit?