

DEVOTIONS

Think about devotions is 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

Gracious God —Your kingdom has broken into our world through the preaching and healing work of Jesus. Open our ears and our hearts that we may hear your word. With that word, heal us, that we too may be witnesses to your kingdom. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that warmed your heart today. Name one thing that tugged your heart.
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Jesus escapes the crowds for a bit to go to a quiet place to pray. When you were busy or nervous today? Did you think to pray? What did you pray about?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** What gets in the way of people meeting Jesus? How can you share the love of Jesus with someone today or tomorrow?

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 while you pray together. Have each person say a personal prayer for healing. Close with "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

Mark one another with the sign of the cross on each other's hands or forehead, and say, "Through the power of God you have been made clean. Share what you know about God with others. 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/>.

JANUARY 5, 2020

Mark 1:21-45



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.
- Mark 1:34

MEALTIME PRAYER

You grace our table, O God, with foods that bring nutrients and nourishment to our bodies. You heal our hearts, O God, with your love and peace. You give mercy, O God, to all creation. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story?***

Sunday	Mark 1:40-45	Jesus Heals a Leper
Monday	Luke 7:1-10	Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant
Tuesday	Luke 7:11-17	Jesus Raises a Widow's Son
Wednesday	Luke 7:18-23	Signs of the Kingdom
Thursday	Luke 7:36-50	Dinner at Simon's House
Friday	Mark 2:1-12	Jesus Heals a Paralytic
Saturday	Mark 2:13-17	Tax Collectors and Sinners
Sunday	Mark 2:18-22	Jesus Forgives Sins

*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.

Collect first aid items such as adhesive bandages, antiseptic wipes, cotton balls, and other bandages. Donate collected items to a local school, homeless shelter, or food shelf.