

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

Loving God, give us focus this week on how we can always represent your love and grace to all those we encounter. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** What is something that made you happy today? What is something that made you sad or angry?
- ❓ **Thinking About This Week's Story:** God does not look at the outward appearance of Jesse's sons, but at their hearts. When did you just pay attention to how someone looked today? When did you try to find out what was going on inside someone else?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's story, Solomon builds a temple to honor God. How have you honored God today? What have you done that you are not proud of?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Pray Psalm 51:10-14 aloud together.

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 each other's hands or forehead, and say, "God looks inside you and loves every bit of 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/>.

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1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 51:10-14



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

— 1 Samuel 16:7

MEALTIME PRAYER

God, you look beyond the surface of things to what really matters. Help us to likewise look beyond the surface of all whom we meet. Bless all of the hands through which this food traveled to come from the fields to our table. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This week's daily readings fill in the gaps between Sundays. A question to ask as you read: **What is going on in the hearts of the characters in each story?**

Sunday	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 51:10-14	God Chooses David
Monday	2 Samuel 1:1-27	David Mourns Saul
Tuesday	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5	David Becomes King
Wednesday	2 Samuel 7:1-29	God's Covenant with David
Thursday	2 Samuel 12:1-24	David's Sin; Birth of Solomon
Friday	1 Kings 1:28-40	Solomon Is Appointed King
Saturday	1 Kings 3:3-28	Solomon Prays for Wisdom
Sunday	1 Kings 5:1-15; 8:1-13	Solomon's Temple

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.

How can you be a faithful leader this week? Each person can name something big or small and commit to doing it. Follow up with each other!