

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 have a plan and purpose for our lives. Not for just us, but for all of creation. Help us to understand what we are to do with our lives. Encourage us to live them out as an example of your love. Guide us in the way of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ❓ **Highs & Lows:** Name one thing that did not go according to the plan today. Name one thing that was spot on.
- ❓ **Thinking about This Week's Story:** God reminded the people that God has a plan and purpose to life. God promised that it would include a future with hope. What gave you hope today? What challenged your hope (or positive outlook)?
- ❓ **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week's story is set in a valley of full of dry bones. God breathes the breath of life into them and they come back to life. What happened today that made you feel dry or drained? What gave you energy?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Use the highs and lows from the group to direct your prayers.

CLOSING

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

✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

Hold hands with each person in turn, and say, "God, gives you hope. 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/>.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...to give you a future with hope.

—Jeremiah 29:11.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for our family and for our friends. Thank you, Lord, for the hands that have provided us this food—from the field to our table—and for all else you have given us. Thank you, Lord, for caring for us when life is hard and for giving us a future with hope. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **Who are the main characters in each story? Which character resonates with you the best?**

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|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 | Hope for the Future |
| Monday | Jeremiah 29:15-23 | Prophecy of Exile |
| Tuesday | Jeremiah 30:1-11 | Prophecy of Return from Exile |
| Wednesday | Jeremiah 31:1-14 | Prophecy of Abundance |
| Thursday | Jeremiah 31:31-40 | A New Covenant |
| Friday | Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10 | Ezekiel's Call |
| Saturday | Ezekiel 3:1-11 | Called to Be a Prophet |
| Sunday | Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Valley of the Dry Bones |

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.

Think of someone you know who might be lonely and sad. Write them a letter or draw them a picture, and mail it to them this week.