

## 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 keep on blessing us, even when we do not deserve it. Let us see and appreciate the everyday blessings you give us, in the world and in our lives. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- 🔗 **Highs & Lows:** We have a tendency to forget how blessed we are and sometimes take things for granted. Name something from today that was a blessing, big or small. Then, name something that was difficult. How can you find a blessing in your low?
- 🔗 **Thinking about This Week's Story:** Our God is one who can bring new life to what was dead. What was something that hurt you today? What gave you joy?
- 🔗 **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** The Lord beckons all of us to seek God. When today did you feel lost or confused? When did you feel heard?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Close your eyes and breathe deeply while praying aloud or silently: "May God breathe life into our dry bones."

### 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, trace the sign of the cross on each person's forehead or hand, saying, "God's breath of life is inside of you. 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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Ezekiel 37:1-14



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live."

—Ezekiel 37:14

### MEALTIME PRAYER

God of love, you brought to life a valley of dry bones, we know you also bring us life both through this food we are about to eat and your Holy Spirit. Thank you for your promise of renewal. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*Filling in the gaps. A question to ask as you read: Where is God active in each story?*

Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of the Dry Bones
Monday	Ezekiel 39:25-29	Prophecy of Israel's Restoration
Tuesday	Ezra 1:1-11	The End of the Exile
Wednesday	Ezra 3:1-7	Worship Begins in Jerusalem
Thursday	Ezra 3:8-13	Rebuilding the Temple
Friday	Isaiah 52:3-10	God's Restoration of Israel
Saturday	Isaiah 54:1-10	God's Covenant of Peace
Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-11	Seek the Lord

*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.*

Volunteer at a homeless shelter. If that is not possible, contact a shelter and ask what is something you can contribute. Through your actions, show that God's love is extended to others through acting with kindness and generosity.