

## 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

Merciful God, Grant compassion on your people, who seek your forgiveness. Clear a path for justice for those who have been oppressed. Be with us today as we center our minds and inhale your peace so that we can keep our hopeful hearts on you. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs & Lows:** What is one thing you experienced that went right today? What is one thing you experienced that went wrong?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** God's people had been exiled, and now were returning to Jerusalem, their homeland. Moving forward, God promised to be their faithful leader by helping understand what was right and just. Do we seek to do what is fair? Do you seek God out to help you?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Mary gets a surprise visit from an angel, who tells her she is going to have a baby. How have you been surprised? What message did you receive?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Using pencil and paper, have each person right down a prayer for peace in the world. Once done, read the 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

*Use your fingers to make the peace sign, saying, "Blessed are you who have hope filled hearts; go, serve and reach out to others with peace. Amen."*

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Isaiah 61 :1-11



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. —Isaiah 61:8

### MEALTIME PRAYER

God of Mercy, Thank you for the food we are about to receive. Thank you for the home we have. Thank you for the people in our lives who care for us. Thank you for everything. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*Here are a couple of questions for your daily readings: **What is happening in each of these stories? And how are they tied to hope in God?***

Sunday	Isaiah 61:1-11	Isaiah's Prophecy of Hope and Deliverance
Monday	Leviticus 25:8-12	The Year of Jubilee
Tuesday	Genesis 1:1-5	The Spirit of Creation
Wednesday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A Light to the Nations
Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-17	The Coming Ruler
Friday	Luke 1:5-24	The Birth of John Foretold
Saturday	Luke 1:57-80	Mary and the Hope of the Messiah

*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.*

Spend time with a close friend by going for a walk, getting coffee, or talking on the phone.