

## 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

God of the Most High, You sent your angels to deliver a message to the world - a message not to condemn the world but to save it through your son, Jesus. Help us to share this message of Good News with others. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs and Lows:** What is something that brought you glad tidings today?  
What is something that made you afraid?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** God sent an angel to deliver a message to Mary. The first words the angel tells Mary is to not be afraid. What would you do if an angel appeared to you? What do you think angels looks like?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Baby Jesus, God's son, is born; he is the promised king. Jesus was born in a stable and his first visitors were lowly shepherds. Does this scene fit your image of a king? Why or why not?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Ask each person what 'Good News' they need to hear today. Pray out loud each person's request.

### CLOSING

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

#### ✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

*Palms up, draw the sign of the cross on each hand, say: "With these hands, we can bless others with love and care. 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 18, 2016

Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."  
—Luke 1:30-31.

### MEALTIME PRAYER

As the light grows dim, we wait for our King. As the days grow shorter, we gather around the table. As the food is presented before us, we give thanks — for friends and family, for drink and food, and for the baby Jesus yet to come. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read, ask yourself: What is the true meaning of Christmas? How does each of the children promised in these passages change the world?*

Sunday	Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]	Mary and the Hope of the Messiah
Monday	1 Samuel 1:9-18	Hannah Dedicates Samuel
Tuesday	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hannah's Prayer
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A Child Promised to Abraham and Sarah
Thursday	Isaiah 7:13-17	A Sign of Immanuel
Friday	John 1:1-13	The Word Became Flesh
Saturday	Luke 2:1-7	The Birth of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 2:8-20	The Shepherds Learn the Story of Hope

*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.*

Pick up a box of candy canes and hand them out to family members, friends or neighbors. As you share one, turn the candy can upside down like the letter 'J'. Remind them the joy of Christmas comes from Jesus!