

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

Everlasting Provider—Your loved your son, Jesus, and we ask that you love us, too. You call us by the name we are given so that we know you are with us at work school, or play. Guide our hearts and minds in our daily conversations so that our words return praise to you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs and Lows:** Name one thing that went well today. Name one thing that did not go well?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Simeon and Anna presented Jesus in the temple. They praised God because Jesus was the promised child that would save the world. Would you be excited to meet the savior of the world? How do you praise God?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** John the Baptist baptizes Jesus in the River Jordan. Have you seen a baptism in church? What have you noticed? What happens?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Hold hands and form a circle. One person begins the prayer, and when they are done then they squeeze the hand of the next person. Continue until each person has had a chance to pray.

CLOSING

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

✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

Mark one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead, and say, "Since you were a baby, you have been loved by God. Go and share this love. 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/>.

JANUARY 1, 2017

Luke 2:21-38



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

At that moment [Anna] came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. —Luke 2:38.

MEALTIME PRAYER

God the Provider—You gather your hungry people and feed us with your grace and forgiveness. You shape us in your love so that we can be family to one another. You send us into the world to reach out to others with kindness. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*A question to ask as you read: **How hard would it be to raise the Son of God?***

Sunday	Luke 2:21-38	A New Revelation: Jesus is Named and Presented
Monday	Luke 2:39-40	The Return to Nazareth
Tuesday	Genesis 17:19-24	Sign of the Covenant
Wednesday	Exodus 13:1-2	Consecration of Firstborns
Thursday	Leviticus 26:3-13	The Covenant is Revealed
Friday	Luke 2:41-45	The Boy Jesus in the Temple
Saturday	Luke 2:46-52	Jesus Teaches in the Temple
Sunday	Luke 3:1-22	A New Revelation: The Proclamation of John the Baptist

*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.

Donate a new or gently used toy to your church nursery.