

## 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 Grace, through our baptisms, you have promised to love, forgive and always be with us. Marking us with the cross of Christ forever, you give us the gift of faith, so that we may believe in your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 helped you stay afloat today? What is something that was pulling you down?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** While being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. When you were baptized, you will filled with the Holy Spirit, too. What does it mean to be full of the Holy Spirit? How does it make you different?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus begins his ministry by teaching in the temples. If you could hear one story from Jesus in church today, what would it be?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Do a telephone prayer. Stand in a line, and the first person whispers a prayer into the next one's ear. Move the prayer down the line by passing it from one ear to the next. Once the prayer has made it to the last person say it out loud.

### 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, "Remember your baptism, and go forth in 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](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)). For more information about the Four Keys, go to <http://milestonesministry.org/>.

JANUARY 8, 2017

Luke 3:1-22



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. —Luke 3:16.

### MEALTIME PRAYER

With your water, we thirst no more. With your word, we are no longer hungry. Because of the water and the word, we are filled to the brim with goodness, wholeness and love. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*A question to ask as you read: How does your understanding of baptism play a role in each of these stories?*

Sunday	Luke 3:1-22	The New Revelation: The Proclamation of John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 62:10-12	Build Up a Highway
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1-4	Coming of the Messenger
Wednesday	Acts 19:1-7	Baptism and the Holy Spirit
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-7	One Baptism
Friday	Luke 3:23-38	The Ancestors of Jesus
Saturday	Luke 4:1-13	The Temptation of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 4:14-30	Jesus' Mission is Revealed

*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.*

Pay attention to the ways you can conserve water this week: turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or shaving, take shorter showers, and only run your dishwasher or washing machine on full loads.