

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

Calming God—Breath into us new life, new energy and new love. Center our anxious hearts with your gentle spirit. Give us what we need each day to be kind and helpful people. And adjust our attitudes to seek you first. 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 calmed your nerves today? What is something that made you anxious?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Jesus heals the slave of a Roman commander and raises the widow's son from death. Both the commander and the widow were sad with grief. But because of their faith in God, the slave and son were saved. Do you have faith in the face of sadness, anxiety or grief?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** John the Baptist sends several people to Jesus, who sends a message back to John about what he has been doing. What do you think Jesus would include in his message to John concerning his most recent activities?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Pray in slow motion. Use your voice to talk slower than normal, and have each person say one thing that they are thankful for today.

CLOSING

- ✠ If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotion time.
- ✠ **Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share**
Hold arms out wide and say, "Blessed are you who can reach out to others with open arms. May you share God's love with someone new today. 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/>.

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Luke 7:1-17



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.
—Luke 7:9-10

MEALTIME PRAYER

Healer God—With your outstretched hands, you can heal our bodies. With leafy vegetables and amazing fruit, you feed our bodies. With your mighty Spirit, you can calm our souls. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read these stories, ask: **What is Jesus doing in each of these stories? How can hearing the stories of the Bible be healing?***

Sunday	Luke 7:1-17	Healing the Sick and Raising the Dead
Monday	Luke 8:40-56	A Girl Raised and a Woman Healed
Tuesday	John 11:38-44	Jesus Raises Lazarus
Wednesday	Luke 18:1-8	The Widow and the Unjust Judge
Thursday	Acts 10:1-16	Peter and Cornelius
Friday	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	Treatment of Widows, Foreigners, and Orphans
Saturday	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac
Sunday	Luke 7:18-35	A Messenger Prepares the Way for Healing

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.

On a piece of paper, write down everyone you know who is sick. Hang the paper on the fridge, and commit to praying for them for this week.