

## 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, we are awe-inspired by your creativity. May we continue to marvel in seeing you in unexpected places; through a person, sunset or a beautiful piece of arts. We bless you and we worship you. Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs and Lows:** Our God sometimes blesses us in unexpected ways. In what ways has God blessed you in a way that you didn't expect? Talk about a time when something bad happened and God changed it for the good?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** In this week's readings, there are stories of separation and reunion. Is there anything you would like to be reconnected to? Will you consider asking God to help with the reconciliation?
- ? **Getting ready for Next Week's Story:** In next week's reading, a rich man ignores Lazarus's obvious needs without offering to share his abundance with him. Has there been a situation in your life when you could've offered help but hesitated to or didn't at all?

### DAILY BIBLE READING

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

### PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Invite everyone get a partner and pray for each other. Ask God to help them in reconciling something in their lives.

### CLOSING

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

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

*Recite this prayer to one another: "May the God of all things be with us this week as we try to make peace from broken pieces. May it be so!"*

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/>.

MARCH 19, 2017

Luke 15: 1-32



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"The Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."  
—1 Samuel 16:7

### MEALTIME PRAYER

We give you thanks, God, for seeing our hearts when others seem to only notice outward appearance. Let us follow your lead, we pray, in the way that we treat our brothers and sisters. Amen.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*Filling in the gaps. A question to ask as you read: **God is a God of surprises. In this week's readings, many unexpected events happen. When has God surprised you in your life?***

Monday	Psalm 119:169-176	Praise the Lord
Tuesday	1 Samuel 16-6-13	David is Anointed
Wednesday	Genesis 45:1-9	Joseph Reunites with His Brothers
Thursday	Genesis 45:21-28	Joseph's Gifts for Jacob
Friday	Exodus 2:1-10	Moses Leaves His Mother
Saturday	John 4:46-54	Jesus Heals a Royal Son

*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.*

Create care kits for people who are homeless and store them in your car. Consider including personal hygiene items, gloves, or a small gift card. Be sure to also feed their souls by keeping them on your prayer list.