

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

Lord God, we know that as Christians, we are radically going against the norm. May we gather strength and courage to boldly proclaim your love, even if we risk consequences for doing so. Bless us from the crowns of our heads to the souls of our feet. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

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

- ? **Highs & Lows:** Think about a time when you did the right thing, even when it went against the majority. Did you feel proud of yourself? Were there consequences for going against the norm?
- ? **Thinking About This Week's Story:** Shadrach, Meschach, Abednego and Daniel all refused to worship other Gods, even though it was not what others wanted them to do. Think about people you know (or yourself) who have stepped out on faith and were blessed for it?
- ? **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Next week's story is set in the Valley of Dry Bones. God breathes the breath of life into them and they come back to life. What in your life is made of dry bones that need to be revived?

DAILY BIBLE READING

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

PRAY TOGETHER

✠ Close your eyes and breath deeply while praying aloud or silently: "May God breathe life into our dry bones."

CLOSING

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

✠ Rituals & Traditions: A Blessing to Share

Look at your neighbor and say, "Stand strong in the Lord's promises."

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/>.

DECEMBER 3, 2017

Daniel 3:1, 8-30



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else."
—Daniel 5:17

MEALTIME PRAYER

God of love, let us remember that even when things look impossible, you are the one who promised to never leave us or forsake us. We love you and we thank you. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Filling in the gaps. A question to ask as you read: You'll read passages this week where people want to be praised above God. Is there anything in your life that is trying to demand your adoration and loyalty that isn't of God and his love?

Sunday	Daniel 3:1,8-30	God's presence in the fiery furnace
Monday	Daniel 5:1-12	Daniel called to interpret
Tuesday	Daniel 5:13-30	Daniel helps the king
Wednesday	Daniel 6:1-19	Daniel thrown in the lion's den
Thursday	Daniel 6:19-28	King commands loyalty to God
Friday	Ezekiel 1:1-13, 2:1-10	Ezekiel's call to be a prophet
Saturday	Ezekiel 3:1-11	Call to prophecy
Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Dry bones: new life, new 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.

Identify those in your congregation who are sick or shut in. Prepare a snow removal plan that will clear snow from their properties.